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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

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Just a sliver of Chris Tinney's face is all you can see as he works to remove snow from in front of office buildings on Monday in Muskegon, Mich.

KEN STEVENS, THE MUSKEGON CHRONICLE/AP



Iraqi PM urges Fallujah residents to expel al-Qaida

BY SINAN SALAHEDDIN
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's prime minister urged residents and tribes of Fallujah to "expel" al-Qaida militants from the Sunni-dominated city to avoid an all-out battle — remarks that may signal an imminent military move to retake the former insurgent stronghold.

Nouri al-Maliki's message came as dozens of families fled Fallujah, 40 miles west of the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, in fear of a major showdown.

Iraqi government troops have surrounded the city, which was overrun by al-Qaida fighters last week.

Al-Maliki did not say how he expects Fallujah residents and pro-government tribesmen to push the militants out. In his message,



al-Maliki

broadcast over state TV, al-Maliki also urged Iraqi troops to avoid targeting residential areas in the city, which lies in the western Anbar province.

Members of the al-Qaida-linked group known as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, which has gained influence battling government forces in neighboring Syria, also took control of most parts of the provincial capital of Ramadi last week.

Iraqi troops have been trying to dislodge the militants from the two cities. On Sunday, fight-

ing between government forces and militants as well as allied tribesmen in Anbar killed at least 34 people, including 22 soldiers, 10 civilians and an unknown number of militants.

The recent gains by al-Qaida have been a blow to Iraq's Shiite-led government, as sectarian violence has escalated since the U.S. withdrawal. Secretary of State John Kerry said Sunday that Washington was "very, very concerned" by the fighting but would not send in American troops.

SEE FALLUJAH ON PAGE 9

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"They are going to care for her, respect her and love her. And they're going to call her Jahi, not 'the body.'"

— Christopher Dolan, lawyer for the family of Jahi McMath, 13, who was declared brain-dead after a tonsillectomy and was moved Sunday from a California hospital to an undisclosed care facility

See story on Page 6

TOP CLICKS ON STRIPES.COM

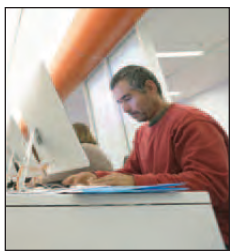
The most popular stories on our website:

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2. US soldier the first coalition combat death of 2014 in Afghanistan
3. Rapid fall for Army general accused of sex crimes
4. \$400M for Army's Stryker comes with strings attached
5. DOD announces changes to imminent danger pay

COMING SOON

Wired World

A look at the nation's only bookless library



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MILITARY



RAHMAT GUL/AP

Afghan officials investigate the site of a suicide attack Saturday on a joint NATO-Afghan base in the Ghani Khail district of Nangarhar province that killed a U.S. soldier.

1st coalition combat death of 2014

DOD identifies soldier killed in Saturday's attack on Afghan-NATO military base

By TOSHIO SUZUKI
Stars and Stripes

The Department of Defense identified a U.S. soldier based at Fort Knox, Ky., as the servicemember killed by an insurgent attack Saturday in eastern Afghanistan.

Sgt. 1st Class William K. Lacey, 38, died from injuries received during a rocket-propelled grenade attack in Nangarhar province, according to a DOD news release. His death marks the first combat loss of 2014 for the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force.

There were three insurgent attacks on Saturday — one at the joint Afghan-NATO military base in Nangarhar and two others later in Kabul that caused no casualties, according to the ISAF.

At least six insurgents, some wearing suicide vests, died in the base attack, which occurred about

Official: 3 killed in Monday car bombing

KABUL — A provincial official in Afghanistan said a suicide car bomber attacked a security checkpoint in the country's east, killing three police officers.

Musa Khan Akbarzada, the governor of Ghazni province, said the attack Monday wounded three other officers in the Shilghar district.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the attack in an email to journalists.

Earlier, the Interior Ministry said police had apprehended a young girl who had intended to carry out a suicide attack against Afghan border police in southern Helmand province.

In a statement, the ministry said the girl, 10, claimed her brother, a local Taliban commander, had sent her on the mission.

Afghan forces are seeing their casualties mount as the U.S.-led international force there pulls back ahead of its withdrawal at the end of 2014.

From The Associated Press

8 a.m. when a suicide bomber detonated an explosives-laden sedan at the gate.

Ahmad Zia Abdulzai, a Nangarhar provincial government

spokesman, said Saturday that the gunbattle between insurgents and coalition and Afghan forces went on for about 40 minutes. He said no Afghan troops were killed

or injured in the attack.

Lacey, of Laurel, Fla., was a vehicle mechanic assigned to the 201st Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division at Fort Knox.

"He was brave beyond brave," his father, John Lacey, said to the Northwest Florida Daily News. "He was out there in the middle of nowhere — in hell — and he kept doing it over and over and over. ... I'm just so proud of him."

This was his fifth deployment overall and second in Afghanistan, according to Fort Knox public affairs.

The death in Afghanistan of U.S. Marine Sgt. Jacob M. Hess, was reported Wednesday but wasn't described as a combat fatality by the DOD. That incident is under investigation.

Heath Druzin and Zubair Babakarkhail contributed to this report.
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MILITARY

'Jihad Jane' gets 10 years in death plot

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — A U.S. woman involved in a plot to kill a Swedish artist who had offended Muslims has been sentenced to 10 years in prison after telling a judge she was once obsessed with jihad.

Colleen LaRose, 50, had called herself "Jihad Jane" online and agreed to kill artist Lars Vilks over his series of drawings depicting the prophet Muhammad as a dog.

She faced a potential life term. But the judge accepted a government request to reduce the sentence because of her extensive cooperation with investigators.

Prosecutors still asked for decades in prison, saying she remains dangerous.



LaRose

Both sides agree that LaRose was isolated and endured harsh abuse throughout her life.

Larose told the judge she became obsessed with jihad, saying she was "in a trance" and thought about it from morning to night.

"I don't want to be into jihad no more," she said.

She could be out of prison in a little more than four years, given the more than four years she has already served and the potential for time off for good behavior.

U.S. investigators say she participated in a 2009 conspiracy to target Vilks over his drawings. Muslim extremists in Iraq had offered a \$100,000 reward for anyone who killed Vilks, who was never attacked.

The Justice Department said Ali Charaf Damache, who was living in Ireland, recruited LaRose and another U.S. woman via jihadist websites.

Damache married the other woman, Jamie Paulin-Ramirez, on the day she arrived in Ireland.

LaRose left the terrorist cell in Ireland after about six weeks because she "grew frustrated because her co-conspirators were not ready for action," Assistant U.S. Attorney Jennifer Arbittier Williams said Monday.

LaRose returned to the U.S. in 2009 to surrender, becoming one of the few women ever charged in the country with terrorist activities. Her arrest was kept secret and the indictment was unsealed only after Paulin-Ramirez and the six others were rounded up in Ireland months later.

Paulin-Ramirez and another co-defendant, teen Mohammad Hassan Khalid, are scheduled to be sentenced this week.

AF major cleared of assaulting ex-fiancée

BY ASHLEY ROWLAND
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — A South Korean court has cleared a U.S. Air Force officer of charges that he assaulted his former fiancée.

Maj. Josue Alomar, 39, had been accused of raping the woman, in her early to mid-30s, inside a car in a parking lot in Seoul's Seochu-gu district on Aug. 8, 2012. He also faced charges of assault inflicting injuries for allegedly beating the woman on three occasions between June 2011 and February 2012, forcing her to undergo a tooth implant after one assault, according to court records.

The Seoul Central District Court determined last month that the woman's statements were not credible and that she had given contradictory accounts of whether she had been raped.

The couple previously lived together, according to a court prosecutor. Alomar maintained that the two had consensual sex and he never assaulted her, according to the prosecutor's office.

According to sentencing documents, the woman had an on-again, off-again relationship with Alomar even after ending their engagement in June 2011.

She continued having a physical relationship with Alomar even after starting to see another man, and was distraught that Alomar did not want a serious relationship with her and was dating another woman, the documents said. In May 2013, she called Alomar and told him that she missed having sex with him.

Photos submitted as evidence of an alleged June 2011 beating showed no bruises on the woman and had likely been altered, according to sentencing documents.

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ROBERT L. FISHER III/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

A lift to safety

U.S. Marines and sailors guide American citizens waiting to board a Marine Corps KC-130J Hercules aircraft during the evacuation of personnel from the U.S. Embassy in Juba, South Sudan, on Friday. Marines from Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response successfully evacuated more than 20 personnel from the embassy in coordination with the East Africa Response Force.

Serviceman held in Kaiserslautern death

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
AND MARCUS KLÖCKNER
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — A 34-year-old American serviceman has been placed in pretrial confinement while an investigation continues into the Dec. 14 death of U.S. Petty Officer 2nd Class Dmitry Chepusov.

The servicemember has not been charged with any crimes, Linda Card, a spokeswoman for the Air Force's Office of Special Investigations, said Monday. For that reason, investigators will not release his name, branch of service or unit, Card said.

"So far, no charges have been preferred," she said. "That must happen before we can release that information."

Initially, the servicemember had been remanded to his unit

without being arrested, the OSI said last month.

An autopsy by German authorities concluded that Chepusov, 31, a sailor assigned to the American Forces Network at Ramstein Air Base, died of "force to the neck," according to a joint statement from German police and the Kaiserslautern prosecutor's office issued a few days after Chepusov's death.

Chepusov, from Edgewater, N.J., was found dead in Kaiserslautern after German police pulled over the car in which he had been riding because it was being driven erratically early on the morning of Dec. 14.

The car's driver was turned over to U.S. military custody on Dec. 16, according to the Kaiserslautern prosecutor's office.

German police determined the driver was legally intoxicated,

with a blood alcohol content of 0.072 percent, Udo Gehring, a spokesman for the prosecutor's office, said Monday. The legal driving limit in Germany is 0.05 percent.

Gehring said German authorities turned the investigation and all supporting evidence over to U.S. military investigators. Card, however, said the Germans "are still maintaining the lead."

"Anything OSI comes up with in their investigation, they're going to turn that information over to the Germans," she said. "They're working together."

Card said the decision to prefer charges will be made by the 86th Airlift Wing commander at Ramstein Air Base, in conjunction with his legal advisers.

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Say what?

A sample of reader comments from
stripes.com



Imminent danger pay locations to be cut

On Friday, the Defense Department announced that many areas will be removed from the list of places where U.S. servicemembers qualify for imminent danger pay.

Readers respond:

Bottom Line is this- Every reenlistment time, we can look at our 1st and 15th pay and decide if we want to stay with it or leave. ... If you do not like the future of your pay, get out of the way and let the many prospective recruits get in where they fit in.

— n8whit

This guy Korb says he'd rather be in Bahrain than in some US cities... There are 'rallies' in Bahrain all the time that never see the medias attention. More things happen there than are posted. The King does a great job of making sure things stay hushhush.

— True American

All military members in Bahrain have a curfew every night of the week due to Force Protection concerns. ... Pretty clearly a fiscal issue.

— Forward deployed

So what if it is a fiscal issue? But considering Bahrain is not anymore dangerous than South Korea and there's no IDP for South Korea, what does that tell you. If it is that dangerous, why do we still send families to include children there? This is a change I agree with.

— Desk Pilot

I felt safer in Bahrain than I do in my hometown of Chicago. We had a good deal for way too long...its coming to an end in June 2014. Don't whine about it.

— Keyser

I always felt a little guilty for getting IDP in Kuwait the same as the guys in Afghanistan. Sucks for the people there now baking but it was overdue by almost two decades.

— magicman2276

Every time a country is taken off the list there is complaining. ... Many of the countries on the list have not seen war in decades.

— Raymond James

Join the fray at:
stripes.com/go/dangerpay

MILITARY

Funding for Stryker has strings attached

Lawmakers want accounting for stockpiled parts

By ADAM ASHTON

The (Tacoma, Wash.) News Tribune

An almost \$400 million infusion into the Army's Stryker program comes with strings attached from lawmakers who want to know more about a stockpile of unneeded replacement parts that built up at an Auburn warehouse during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

The defense budget President Barack Obama signed Christmas week sets aside the money to buy or modify Strykers, but it states the Army cannot spend the full amount until it tells Congress what it's doing to dispose of the \$900 million worth of Stryker parts Defense Department auditors found at the warehouse in 2012.

The bill, called the National Defense Authorization Act, orders Secretary of the Army John McHugh to produce a report to the House and Senate Armed Services committees that details whether any of the parts can still be used for a military purpose and outline what's being done to sell the rest.

Rep. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., requested the limitations on Stryker funding in the \$526.8 billion defense bill. She wanted to hold the Army accountable to the recommendations outlined by the Defense Department Inspector General in its report on the parts stockpile, said a Democratic staff member on the House Armed Services Committee.



Courtesy of the U.S. Army

U.S. soldiers assigned to K-Troop, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, maneuver their Stryker vehicles through the snow-covered Grafenwöhr Training Area in Germany on Feb. 13, 2013.

The parts accumulated during fast-paced war years in which General Dynamics continually revised the Stryker to counter threats in Iraq and Afghanistan. There now are 17 varieties of the vehicles, including heavily armored ones with slanted hulls specifically designed to deflect mines in Afghanistan.

Those changes saved lives, but also created a complicated repair and replacement process that the Army is working to standardize with its other ground vehicle programs.

"The (Stryker program) is being executed in a dynamic environment from the moment the

vehicles came off the production line," Paul Rogers, the Army's former deputy director of ground combat vehicles, told auditors in 2012.

Until recently, the Army relied on contractors to maintain the 20-ton, eight-wheeled machines. Now it's opening positions for enlisted Stryker mechanics so men and women in uniform can take more responsibility for the upkeep of the vehicles.

The Defense Department Inspector General published three audits of Stryker contracts since 2012 that suggested the Army did not create incentives to control costs for work on the infantry

vehicles. The company's last \$1.6 billion maintenance contract reimbursed General Dynamics for its purchases of parts and provided a fixed fee in each year of the agreement.

In return, General Dynamics was expected to keep 90 percent of the Army's almost 2,600 Strykers ready for deployments. The company exceeded that goal, typically hitting 96 percent.

Yet that focus encouraged General Dynamics to stock up on unnecessary inventory at taxpayers' expense, according to the first audit of the company's maintenance contract. The audit suggested the Army overspent

by \$335.9 million on the first five years of the deal.

The second audit, released in November 2012, drew the most attention because it suggested the Army was sitting on hundreds of millions of dollars worth of replacement parts at the Auburn warehouse. Most of the parts were obsolete, such as \$57 million worth of infrared equipment that had not been used since 2007.

In some cases, the Army kept buying gear it didn't need, such as replacement gears for a suspension problem that surfaced between 2007 and 2009. General Dynamics solved the underlying problem in 2010 but kept buying the unneeded replacement gears.

Neither the Army nor the company took full responsibility for the parts in the Auburn warehouse. Each party believed the other side was responsible for tracking the parts, according to the report.

The audits recommended the Army take ownership of all of the parts and enter them in its equipment-tracking systems.

The warehouse is a 730,000-square-foot site owned by the federal government but managed by General Dynamics.

The Stryker first was developed for infantry brigades at Joint Base Lewis-McChord just before the Iraq War. The base has more Strykers than any other Army post.

Logistics officers from Lewis-McChord's 7th Infantry Division visited the Auburn site last year after The News Tribune published a story on the Inspector General audit. The soldiers were working to catalog the inventory of Stryker parts at the base.

They found most of the warehouse parts were ill-suited for current variations of Stryker vehicles.

Maine bill on recruiters in schools stirs partisan ruckus

By NOEL K. GALLAGHER

Portland (Maine) Press Herald

A bipartisan bill to ensure that military recruiters can wear their uniforms in schools is back for the legislative session that starts Wednesday, even though there is no evidence to indicate that military recruiters were ever denied access to a Maine school while in uniform.

A similar Republican-backed bill was narrowly defeated in the last session after acrimonious debate and bitter accusations of anti-military bias. The bill became a political football, with supporters outraged that it wasn't getting broad support, and opponents upset at being cast as anti-military.

School officials were upset that they were being accused of turning away recruiters in uniform.

The current bill, L.D. 1579, sponsored by Rep. Mick Devin, D-Newcastle, would require schools to allow military recruiters to wear their uniforms on campus,

as well as public safety officials, from firefighters to game wardens. Devin, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate, said he's already lining up support for the bill.

"I am working very hard to ensure there is no one that's the bad guy," he said.

Devin has done recruiting in schools, as has the bill's co-sponsor, Sen. David Burns, R-Whiting, a retired Maine state trooper.

Veterans' support

Among the bill's 10 co-sponsors are veterans from both parties and the Education Committee's House chairman, Bruce MacDonald, D-Boothbay, who voted against the bill last year.

"It sounds like people have taken a deep breath and, at least thus far, can get past the partisan acrimony and political theater of this to work in a bipartisan way," said Mark Brewer, a political science professor at the University of Maine. "It sounds like they are

going to get a piece of legislation passed that the governor will sign."

Gov. Paul LePage is likely to support the bill if it's similar to the previous one, said his spokeswoman, Adrienne Bennett. After the last session, LePage blasted Democrats for defeating the bill, and said he intended to reintroduce it this year, if necessary.

"He's looking forward to working with (Devin)," Bennett said Friday. "It's not a partisan issue for the governor."

Supporters of the original bill said it was needed because some Maine Army National Guard recruiters said they were denied access, according to an email from Sgt. Maj. Richard Hannibal to Stephen Bowen, who was education commissioner at the time.

Guard spokesman Peter Rogers said the issue arose from a specific incident in which a recruiter was asked not to wear a uniform while giving a test to potential recruits. Rogers said he didn't

know where or when the incident occurred, and no one asked Hannibal for those details.

He said Hannibal got the report from a military recruiter who reported to him. Despite repeated requests for more details on the incident, Rogers said the Guard would not provide more information or allow interviews with Hannibal or recruiters because it didn't want to "get in a back-and-forth" with the schools.

Need is questioned

Opponents of the bill questioned whether it was needed, since public schools are prohibited from barring military recruiters under the federal No Child Left Behind Act. The federal law makes no mention of uniforms.

When asked which schools barred uniformed recruiters, Rogers said, "There are no schools that we know of that have barred recruiters in uniform."

In Hannibal's email, Oak Hill

High School in Wales, Noble in North Berwick, and high schools in Wells, York, Kennebunk, Gorham and Yarmouth were identified as allowing "minimal access," but officials at all of the schools denied that.

The bill initially passed in the House, 115-28, and passed unanimously in the Senate. But by the deciding vote on July 9, the Democratic House caucus was split. Some supported the bill, or at least felt it was harmless. Others said it was being used as a political weapon. The House voted 97-45 in support, after 19 Democrats changed their votes, leaving the bill shy of the needed two-thirds of all representatives.

MacDonald said the "pretty awful debate" led him to switch his vote. "It was a protest vote," he said. "I just didn't want to support a vote on that tide of rhetoric."

LePage called the final vote a disgrace, and sent angry, handwritten notes to Democratic lawmakers who voted against the bill.

NATION

‘Polar vortex’ pushes deep freeze across US

Dangerously cold air could break records

By TAMMY WEBBER
AND KERRY LESTER
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — The eastern half of the U.S. and Canada shivered Monday as a dangerously cold whirlpool of dense air known as a “polar vortex” threatened to break decades-old records and freeze exposed skin within minutes.

The bitter weather comes after a heavy snowstorm hit much of the region last week. Officials closed schools in Chicago and other Midwest cities and warned residents to stay indoors.

More than 1,000 flights were canceled Sunday at airports throughout the Midwest. More than 400 flights were canceled at Chicago’s airports Monday.

“It’s just a dangerous cold,” said National Weather Service meteorologist Butch Dye.

The forecast is extreme: 32 degrees below zero Fahrenheit in North Dakota, and 15 below zero in Minneapolis, Indianapolis and Chicago. Wind chills — what it feels like when high winds are factored into the temperature — could drop into the minus 50s and 60s Fahrenheit.

In New York City, the temperature was expected to drop sharply from about 52 degrees to about 10 overnight as the arctic air moved in.

In Newfoundland, about 30,000 customers remained without power because of rolling blackouts in recent days, but Premier Kathy Dunderdale said it wasn’t a crisis and government services were operating.

It hasn’t been this cold for almost two decades in many parts of the region. Frostbite and hypothermia can set in within minutes.

“I have seen frostbite occur through clothing,” said Douglas Brunette, an emergency room doctor in Minneapolis. “It’s



TERESA CRAWFORD/AP

Fog blankets Lake Michigan along the Chicago shoreline Monday as temperatures dove well below zero and wind chills were expected to reach 40 to 50 below. A whirlpool of frigid, dense air known as a “polar vortex” descended into much of the U.S.

not enough just to be covered. You need clothes made for the elements. You need to repel the wind.”

The Indianapolis mayor upgraded the city’s travel emergency level to “red,” making it illegal for anyone to drive except for emergencies or seeking shelter. The last

time the city issued such a travel warning was 1978.

Elnur Toktombetov, a Chicago taxi driver, said that an hour into his shift, his car’s windows were coated with ice on the inside.

Many cities came to a virtual standstill.

School was called off Monday for the state of Minnesota. Government offices and courts in several states closed.

Southern states were bracing for possible record cold, too. With two freezing nights ahead, Louisiana citrus farmers could lose any fruit they cannot pick in time.

Gone with the wind chill: Gusts spread winter pain

By PATRICK CONDON
The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — It’s not the heat, it’s the humidity, goes the old saying. For the tens of millions of Americans trapped in the deep freeze, it’s not the cold, it’s the wind.

Air temperatures plunging into the negative teens, 20s and even 30s Sunday into Monday are bad enough. Add wind speeds of even a few miles per hour, and what’s already deeply unpleasant becomes downright dangerous.

“It’s not so much the absolute cold, though that’s certainly not pleasant either,” said Mark Seeley, a climatologist for the University of Minnesota. “But what the wind does when it starts blowing it around is force the cold air onto whatever it touches. Whether it’s human skin or a car engine,

the wind pushes away the warmth being generated and replaces it with cold.”

Thus the popular term “wind chill,” which a couple of Polar explorers originated in 1945 to differentiate between the actual temperature, and the temperature that it feels like thanks to the wind. For instance, in International Falls, Minn., along the Canadian border, it was forecast to reach an air temperature of 30 below zero early Monday. Wind gusts will make it feel more like negative 60.

“Fighting a fire on a night like that, a lot of our guys would rather do recon in the burning structure than man the hoses,” said Jim Hultman, a veteran firefighter in International Falls, frequently one of the coldest spots in the nation. “I’m not kidding. Because at least you’re warm.”

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Dr. Jin Robertson’s autobiography

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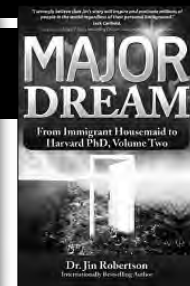
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—[Amazon.com]



Volume 1



Volume 2

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Dr. Jin Robertson at
Harvard graduation with
her daughter and son



After swearing her
daughter Jasmin
into the U.S. Army

For your own Best Life, read

MAJOR DREAM: From Immigrant Housemaid to Harvard PhD

NATION

NJ works to curb sex trafficking as Super Bowl nears

By KATIE ZEZIMA
AND SAMANTHA HENRY
The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Law enforcement agents in New Jersey have redoubled efforts to fight what they worry could be one of the biggest menaces to come with next month's Super Bowl: sex trafficking.

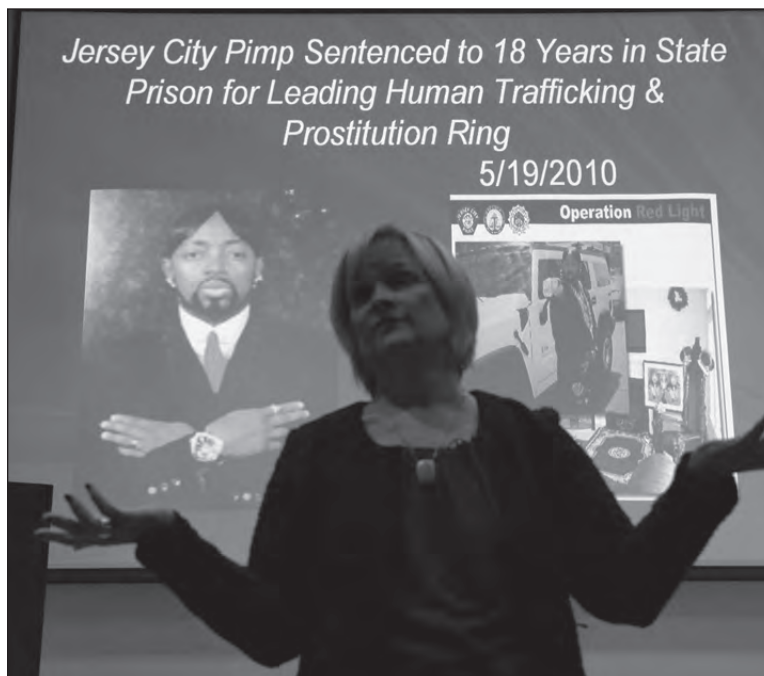
Hundreds of thousands of visitors are expected to descend on New Jersey for the Feb. 2 football game. Many believe the state's sprawling highway system, proximity to New York City and diverse population make it an attractive base of operations for traffickers.

"New Jersey has a huge trafficking problem," said U.S. Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., who is co-chairman

of the House anti-human trafficking caucus. "One Super Bowl after another has shown itself to be one of the largest events in the world where the cruelty of human trafficking goes on for several weeks."

Law enforcement in New Jersey has worked for years to battle forced prostitution. The state strengthened its human trafficking law in early 2013, but it hit a roadblock in August when a federal judge ruled that a portion of the law that pertains to commercial sex ads posted online may conflict with federal legislation. The state is appealing.

There are scant statistics and much debate over how much sex trafficking increases during a



MEL EVANS/AP

Kathleen Friess gives a presentation on human trafficking in Hamilton Township, N.J., for hotel and nightclub employees.

Super Bowl or other large sporting event, but it's been enough of a concern to prompt New Jersey and previous Super Bowl host cities to pay attention to it.

Danielle Douglas, a speaker and advocate who identifies herself as a sex-trafficking survivor, said any major sporting event attracts

sex traffickers looking to make money.

"The Super Bowl is a huge, huge arena for sex trafficking," Douglas said. Some visitors "are coming to the Super Bowl not even to watch football — they are coming to the Super Bowl to have sex with women, and/or men or children."

Man reunited with family after AP photo published

By BEN NUCKOLS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Nicholas Simmons, 20, disappeared from his parents' house in a small upstate New York town on New Year's Day, leaving behind his wallet, cellphone and everything else.

Four days later, an Associated Press photographer, looking for a way to illustrate unusually cold weather, snapped Simmons' picture as he warmed himself on a steam grate a few blocks from the U.S. Capitol in Washington.

Parents Paul and Michelle Simmons saw the AP photograph in USA Today on Sunday morning after it was brought to their attention through a Facebook page set up to help find their son, according to police and family friends.

While questions remain unanswered about why the young man left and how he ended up in Washington, his mother expressed her relief on Facebook that her son had been located.

"It could have been months before we had a lead on his whereabouts. My baby looks so lost, and I will be spending the rest of my life making him well," she wrote.

The photo, taken Saturday by AP photographer Jacquelyn Martin, showed Simmons with his unshaven face pressed against a



JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP

Nicholas Simmons warms himself on a steam grate Saturday just blocks from the Capitol during frigid temperatures. He was reunited with his family after they saw this photo in USA Today.

grate outside the Federal Trade Commission. He wore a ski jacket and a hood over his head. A thick gray blanket covered his lower body. Martin found a cluster of men huddled around the grate, introduced herself and started taking pictures.

Then she noticed one person in particular, huddled under a blanket. "It struck me how young he

was," Martin said.

She finished shooting, sent the pictures to the wire and called it a day. The next day, she received a message via Twitter from USA Today.

The newspaper had run the photo of Nick and was contacting Martin to tell her that Nick's family had recognized him and was trying to locate him.

Martin said the episode serves as a reminder to journalists that every person they encounter has a story to tell.

"It's really gratifying to see that a photograph can make a tangible difference in someone's life," she said.

Court halts same-sex marriages in Utah

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court has put same-sex marriages on hold in the state of Utah, at least while a federal appeals court more fully considers the issue.

The court issued a brief order Monday blocking any new same-sex unions in the state.

The order follows an emergency appeal by the state following the Dec. 20 ruling by U.S. District Judge Robert Shelby that the state's ban on same-sex marriage violates gay and lesbian couples'

constitutional rights.

More than 900 gay and lesbian couples have married since then.

The high court order will remain in effect until the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decides whether to uphold Shelby's ruling.

From The Associated Press

Girl declared brain-dead is moved from Calif. hospital

By TERRY COLLINS
The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Acting with a court order, the family of a California girl declared brain-dead after a tonsillectomy has had her taken from a California hospital to be cared for elsewhere, the family's attorney says.

Jahi McMath, 13, was moved by a critical care team while attached to a ventilator but without a feeding tube, lawyer Christopher Dolan told The Associated Press.

She left Children's Hospital, of Oakland, in a private ambulance shortly before 8 p.m. Sunday, Dolan said. Her destination was not immediately disclosed.

"It was a very tense situation," said Dolan. "Everybody played by the rules."

David Durand, the hospital's chief of pediatrics, said the girl was released to the coroner. The coroner then released her into the custody of her mother, Nailah Winkfield, as per court order, Durand said in an email.

On Friday, Alameda County Superior Court Judge Evelio Grillo said the girl's mother will be held accountable for developments that could include Jahi going into cardiac arrest.

The Alameda County coroner's office issued a death certificate for the girl Friday but said the document is incomplete because no cause of death has been determined pending an autopsy.

"They may have issued one, but we don't have it. We don't think she's dead," Dolan said. "We got all the necessary legal paperwork in order to get Jahi out of there."

He said the deal to move the girl came together Sunday. A court injunction prohibiting Children's Hospital from removing the ventilator that has kept Jahi's heart pumping since her Dec. 9 surgery expires at 5 p.m. Tuesday.

Dolan wouldn't specify where the girl was taken, but he said "they are going to care for her, respect her and love her. And they're going to call her Jahi, not 'the body.'"

Dolan asked for privacy for the caregivers because the issue has raised such strong emotions.

"It's brought out the best in people and the worst in people," he said. "We've had people make threats from around the country. It's sad people act that way, so for Jahi's safety and for those around her, we will not be saying where she went or where she is."

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NATION

Lawmakers facing divide over help for the jobless

By RICHARD A. SERRANO
Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers took to the airwaves Sunday to argue about extending long-term unemployment benefits for 1.3 million Americans who were cut off last month, a politically sensitive issue in an election year.

Democrats urged their Republican counterparts to join in granting emergency unemployment benefits. Republicans countered that they want to explore other options, including new job-training initiatives. Both sides intend to highlight the dispute during this year's midterm election campaigns.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., speaking on CBS's "Face the Nation," said Senate Democrats plan to focus on the middle class this year by helping laid-off Americans whose unemployment benefits expired last month.

"It's the right thing to do," Reid said. "We have long-term unemployment. That's why the American people support this."

A bipartisan proposal by Sens. Jack Reed, D-R.I., and Dean Heller, R-Nev., would give the unemployed a three-month extension that would cost an estimated \$6 billion.

The measure faces a test vote Monday. Reed expects to get the 60 votes needed to open floor debate, but prospects for getting the bill through the Republican-led House are dim.

Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., said he would not vote to bring the legislation to the floor "unless senators have an opportunity to debate and vote on the many good ideas for helping unemployed Americans find a job."

President Barack Obama has urged lawmakers to vote on extending the benefits as their first order of business.

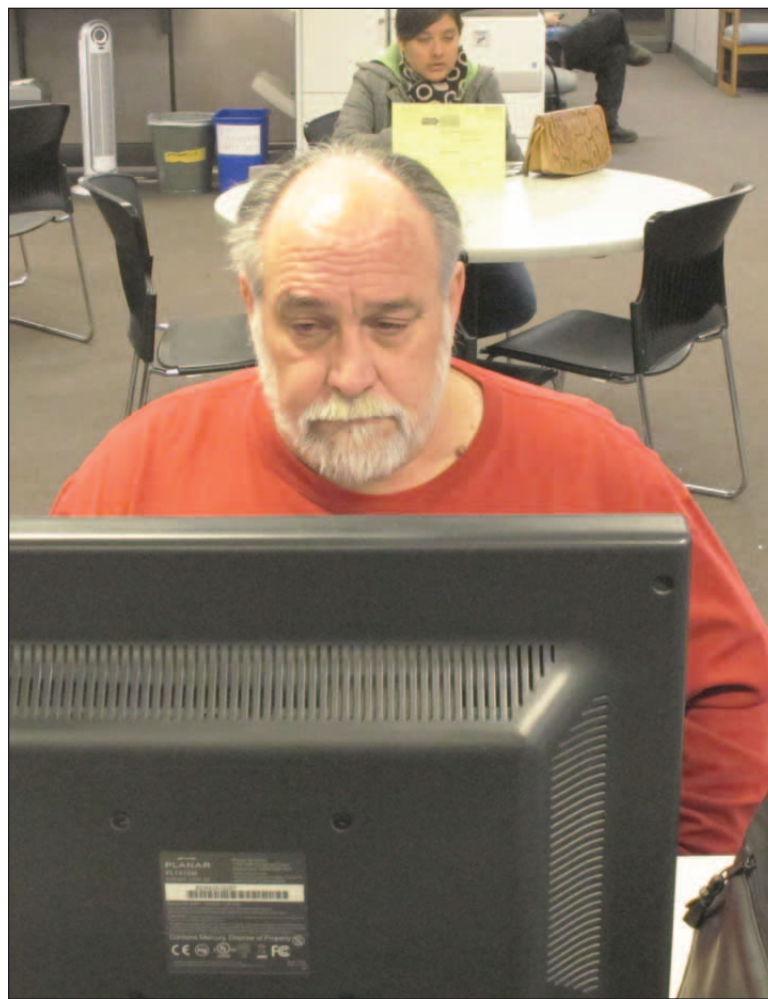
The federal government and

the states jointly provide up to 26 weeks of unemployment benefits, paid from employer payroll taxes, to people who lose their jobs. During periods of high unemployment, Congress has traditionally expanded the program to help those unable to find work.

Last year, with a bitterly divided Congress refusing to step in, anyone who was collecting unemployment for more than 26 weeks lost benefits Dec. 28.

About 1.3 million people were immediately affected, and millions more were expected to reach the limit this year. Unless Congress acts, the Obama administration estimates that 4.9 million people could lose benefits by the end of 2014.

California, Nevada, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts are among the states with significantly higher-than-average percentages of long-term-unemployed people.



AP

Richard Mattos looks for a job at a state-run employment center in Salem, Ore., on Dec. 26.

Liz Cheney says she's out of Wyo. US Senate race

By DONNA CASSATA
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Liz Cheney, daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney, said Monday she is abandoning her effort to unseat Republican incumbent Sen. Mike Enzi of Wyoming.

Cheney cited "serious health issues" that "have recently arisen in our family" as the reason for her decision.

Her candidacy had raised hackles in the Republican Party and caused a public rift with her sister, Mary, a lesbian, over Liz Cheney's opposition to gay marriage.

In her withdrawal statement, Cheney did not mention those controversies.

"Serious health issues have recently arisen in our family, and under the circumstances, I have decided to discontinue my campaign," she said. "My children and their futures were the motivation for our campaign and they will always be my overriding priority."

She did not specify those health issues.

She added: "As a mother and a patriot, I know that the work of defending freedom and protecting liberty must continue for each generation. Though this campaign stops today, my commitment to keep fighting with you and your families for the fundamental values that have made this nation and Wyoming great will never stop."

Cheney moved her family from Virginia to Wyoming to run for the seat. Her effort to replace Enzi angered and upset many Republicans and drew virtually no support from Senate Republicans, who rushed to back the Senate veteran.

Enzi's supporters called Cheney a carpetbagger and opportunist.

Sen. Jerry Moran, R-Kan., chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, swiftly expressed support for Enzi moments after Cheney announced last year.

When she announced her campaign, Cheney said



Liz Cheney speaks during a campaign appearance in Casper, Wyo., on July 17, 2013. She has now left the race for a Wyoming U.S. Senate seat.

it was time for Republicans in Congress to stop "cutting deals" with Democrats and said it was time "for a new generation of leaders."

"We've got to stand and fight, and we have to defend what we believe in," Cheney said. "We have to not be afraid of being called obstructionists."

"In my view, obstructing President [Barack] Obama's policies and his agenda isn't actually obstruction; it's patriotism," Cheney said. "I think we have to stop what he's doing, and then as conservatives, we've got to say, 'Here's what we believe,' and 'Here's the path forward,' and that's what I intend to lay out in this campaign."

In November, Cheney said she opposed gay marriage, sparking a public feud with her sister, Mary, who is a lesbian and married.

Cheney's decision was first reported by CNN, The New York Times and Politico.

Politicians seeking creative ways to raise campaign cash

By RICHARD SIMON
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — Forget the chicken dinner, the rubbery staple of the political fundraising circuit.

Go alligator hunting with Sen. David Vitter, R-La., on a "Louisiana Bayou Weekend" for a campaign donation of \$5,000.

Or spend a weekend in Hayward, Wis., for the Lumberjack World Championships, featuring hometown Republican congressman and former lumberjack champion Sean P. Duffy, for a donation of \$1,000 per person or \$2,000 per political action committee.

Or join Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard, D-Calif., for a "Day at the Races" at Santa Anita Park by ponying up a contribution ranging from \$300 to \$5,000.

The push to be creative and different — did we mention the food truck serving lobster or the trip to the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race? — grows out of the fierce compe-

tition for limited campaign dollars, reflected by the more than two dozen invitations that some Washington lobbyists say arrive in the mail every day.

This being Washington, politicians, as always, are looking for ways to stand out.

Although politicians have staged unusual fundraisers for years, the impulse to host something unexpected — did we mention the karaoke night or duck hunt? — has gotten stronger in recent years.

At the same time, the average cost of winning a House seat has risen to about \$1.6 million in 2012, up from about \$845,000 in 2000, according to the Campaign Finance Institute.

And winning a Senate seat? The average cost was \$10.3 million in 2012, up from about \$7.2 million in 2000.

"Chicken dinners just aren't going to cut it," said Craig Holman, government affairs lobbyist for the watchdog group Public Citizen.

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NATION

A personal quest

Cross-country trek aimed to take steps to stop bullying

BY ALLEN G. BREED
The Associated Press

For a week following Jadin's death, Joe Bell lay in bed, beating himself up, wondering what he could — should — have done differently to help his son.

In the face of relentless bullying at high school, the openly gay 15-year-old had confessed to his parents six months earlier that he'd been having suicidal thoughts. Bell and his wife got their son into counseling, and Jadin appeared to be doing well.

Then he hanged himself.

Racked with guilt, Bell chided himself over scolding Jadin for smoking a few days before the hanging. The Oregon man worried that he couldn't survive this grief.

Bell knew he had to do something. Then it came to him: He'd walk across the country, sharing Jadin's story.

At any given time, as many as 20 people are attempting to cross the United States on foot, Nate Damm figures. The website he started following his own transcontinental trek has become a must-read for walkers, full of advice, tracking information and a running debate on the "why" of such journeys.

Jonathon Stalls walked under the auspices of Kiva, a group that helps connect small investors with entrepreneurs in developing countries. In the end, though, he says he was simply answering a "personal call to engage in quieter, slower, and more intentional experiences with less."

"It's our most inherent form of transportation," said Stalls, 31, of Denver, who walked sea-to-sea in 2010. "It's our most basic form. It's our first form."

For Matt Green, it was as if he were being urged on by some instinctual, irrepressible need from a collective past to challenge himself.

"It's almost like in the American DNA," said the 33-year-old New Yorker, who quit an engineering job at the height of the Great Recession and walked to the Oregon coast in 2010. "We have this kind of romance of the pioneers heading west."

Ultimately, the reasons for walking are deeply personal. As Joe Bell put it to one newspaper reporter he met along his route, "It was either lie in bed like I was and die, or fight back."

So he set out, traveling the land, talking about Jadin, and hoping it might save lives — maybe even his own.



AP photos

Benjamin Lee, front, walks along a highway shoulder in front of his brother, Jonathan, in Queen Anne's County, Md., on Nov. 27 as part of his walk across America. Inset top: Lee and Joe Bell pose for a photo on the side of the road in Colorado in August. Inset bottom: Bell speaks to an audience about his son, Jadin, at the Second Wind Fund Annual Walk/Run in Golden, Colo., on Sept. 22.

Joe Bell's Walk For Change site
joeswalkforchange.org

• • •

Bell took a leave from his job of 17 years at a Boise Cascade plywood mill and began mapping out his route to New York City — a place Jadin had visited on an eighth-grade field trip and where he had dreamed of someday living. Friends helped Bell launch a Facebook page.

On April 20, Bell said goodbye to his wife, Lola Lathrop, and their son, Joseph, 13, and set out, pushing a loaded three-wheeled cart.

With two artificial knees, the 48-year-old's gait was brisk, but awkward. Barely a week out, angry red sores erupted on his feet; the skin beneath his toes cracked open and bled.

By late July, Bell had made it to Steamboat Springs, Colo., a ski resort town. He decided to stay a few days.

He needed the rest. And he wanted to give a fellow traveler who'd contacted him time to catch up.

• • •

For as long as he can remember, Australian Benjamin Lee has dreamed of visiting every country. With nearly 40 stamps in his passport by age 24, he was well on his way.

In late 2012, Lee graduated with

a degree in environmental science from Melbourne's Deakin University. He knew he would soon "need to settle down and get a full-time job," but craved one more grand adventure.

He knew it had to be in America.

Planning a transcontinental route that he reckoned would take eight months and 10 million steps, Lee decided to walk on behalf of Oxfam America, part of a global charity.

As he trudged eastward, Lee kept hearing stories about another walker who'd just passed through. Google searches connected him with the man, Joe Bell, and they met in Steamboat Springs on July 31. Despite the age difference, they hit it off immediately and agreed to travel together as far as Boulder.

Over the next three weeks, Bell posted many photos of Lee: standing along the banks of the Colorado River; trying on a Smokey Bear hat in a mountain gift shop. When

they went to the movies, Bell would place a piece of Red Vines licorice on the seat beside him, in remembrance of the son with whom he used to share the candy.

On Aug. 18, they gathered with friends and family at a Boulder brewery for a farewell dinner. Bell's wife and younger son were there, as was Stalls. As a gay man, Stalls had followed news of Jadin Bell's suicide.

Following their dinner, Stalls kept in touch with Bell. When the older man reached Kansas, Stalls planned to accompany him for several days.

On Oct. 10, Stalls logged onto Bell's website to check his progress. That's how he learned the shocking news: Bell would not finish his trek.

He was walking along two-lane U.S. 40 about 20 miles northwest of Kit Carson, Colo., around dusk on Oct. 9 when the driver of a tractor-trailer apparently fell asleep at the wheel and struck Bell.

Stalls was devastated. "I just

had a lot of really deep connections with his experience," he said. "It was a much bigger space of loss than just the cross-America walk."

Although Bell's mission to honor one son has left another fatherless, his wife does not regret letting him go.

"He needed to do this," Lathrop said. "He wouldn't have gone if we didn't support it."

• • •

As Benjamin Lee neared the end of his own journey, he certainly felt his fallen friend's presence.

Around midday on Nov. 30, the Australian crested the pine-studded dunes at the upper end of Cape Henlopen State Park in Delaware and reached the Atlantic.

Several times in the days leading up to this one, Lee's eyes had welled with tears as he thought about this moment. Now, staring out into the ocean, he felt joy, but also relief.

Lee took off his shoes and socks, and walked into the icy surf, savoring the squish of sand between his toes. Then he reached into his bag and pulled out a package of Red Vines licorice.

He stuck two pieces into the sand — one each for Joe and Jadin.

He said a few words, just to himself, then watched until the waves carried the candy away.

"It's almost like in the American DNA. We have this kind of romance of the pioneers heading west."

Matt Green
cross-country walker

WORLD

Former PM Sharon's condition worsening

JERUSALEM — The medical condition of former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is deteriorating further and only “a miracle” could stop the decline, the head of the hospital treating him said Monday.

Dr. Zeev Rotstein, director of the Sheba Medical Center near Tel Aviv, said the comatose Sharon, 85, remained in a life-threatening condition.

“Unless there is a turn on the level of a miracle, his condition will get worse and worse from day to day,” Rotstein told reporters at the hospital.

He said that though doctors managed to stabilize some of Sharon's bodily functions, several vital organs, including his kidneys, are still in a decline.

China destroys tons of ivory in landmark move

DONGGUAN, China — China destroyed about 6 tons of illegal ivory from its stockpile on Monday in an unprecedented move that wildlife groups say shows growing concern about the black market trade by authorities in the world's biggest market for elephant tusks.

Authorities displayed a pile of ornaments, carvings and tusks to reporters, diplomats and conservationists before feeding them into two crushing machines. Tusks that were too long were cut up into smaller chunks by workers with circular saws and then pulverized.

Forestry and customs officials organized what they said was the country's first large-scale ivory destruction in Dongguan in southern Guangdong province, where much of China's ivory trade is focused.

German leader injures pelvis in skiing accident

BERLIN — German Chancellor Angela Merkel cracked her pelvis during a skiing accident in the Swiss Alps and will have to cut back on her work schedule for the next three weeks, her spokesman said Monday.

Merkel spokesman Steffen Seibert told reporters the chancellor suffered what she first thought was just a bruise to her left rear pelvic area while cross-country skiing, but doctors later determined it was an “incomplete” bone fracture that will require her to rest for three weeks.

S. Sudan talks on hold over agenda differences

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia — Officials in Ethiopia say that direct talks between the warring factions of South Sudan have stalled.

Officials close to the talks between representatives of President Salva Kiir and former Vice President Riek Machar said the peace talks have hit a snag over differences on the agenda. An Ethiopian official who insisted on anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak publicly said it has become clear that more procedural groundwork needs to be laid before talks can continue.

From The Associated Press

Rebel infighting spreads in Syria

By DIAA HADID
The Associated Press

BEIRUT — Syrian rebel fighters freed at least 50 people Monday held captive by an al-Qaida-linked faction after clashes between the rival sides spread further in the country's opposition-held areas in the north, activists said.

The rebel-on-rebel fighting in Raqqa — a bastion of the al-Qaida-linked group known as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant — reflects a widening war within a war in Syria, this one against radical extremists.

It also suggests emboldened, recently formed rebel factions are trying to completely overrun their

al-Qaida rivals in some areas of the north. The infighting has been the most serious since armed groups initially rose to try overthrow the rule of Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Tensions against al-Qaida-linked fighters had been simmering for months, with on-and-off clashes undermining the rebels' fight to topple Assad. Heavy fighting erupted in the northern provinces of Aleppo and Idlib again on Friday after residents there accused ISIL fighters of killing a popular doctor.

An activist group, the British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, estimated that at least 100 fighters on both sides

have been killed since Friday.

The rebels fighting against the ISIL are an unruly series of moderate and ultraconservative groups who have little to unite them except for their hatred of the al-Qaida group. The group is dominated by foreign fighters who initially fanned into Syria from neighboring Iraq in March and muscled into areas that rebels wrested from Assad-loyal forces, imposing their deeply conservative interpretation of Islamic law.

Rebels accused them of over-taking their areas, seizing their weapons and detaining their fighters. They also have eroded the goodwill of the locals by imprisoning Syrian civilians and detaining

activists and journalists critical of their rule.

A coalition of Islamic brigades began clashing with ISIL forces in Raqqa overnight, and the fighting continued Monday, said Rami Abdurrahman, the director of the observatory. Another activist group, the Local Coordinating Committees, also reported the Raqqa clashes, saying they were focused around a city post office.

The observatory said rebels surrounded the ISIL's chief compound in Raqqa and liberated at least 50 detainees from a nearby prison. Abdurrahman said they included fighters and activists imprisoned for their criticism of the ISIL.



AP

Militants patrol during clashes Sunday with Iraqi security forces in Fallujah, 40 miles west of Baghdad.

Fallujah: Al-Qaida fighters maintain control of city center

FROM FRONT PAGE

The Iranian army's Deputy Chief of Staff, Gen. Mohammad Hejazi, said Monday that Iran was also ready to help Iraq with military equipment and advisers should Baghdad ask for it. Any Iranian help would exacerbate tensions as Iraqi Sunnis accuse Tehran of backing what they say are their Shiite-led government's unfair policies against them.

Fallujah residents said clashes continued into early Monday along the main highway that links the capital, Baghdad, to neighboring Syria and Jordan.

Al-Qaida fighters and their supporters maintained control of the city center, flooding the streets and surrounding government buildings. Al-Qaida black flags have been seen on government and police vehicles captured by the militants during the clashes.

Sporadic clashes erupted in some parts of Ramadi on Monday, residents there said. All residents

in Anbar who talked to The Associated Press spoke on condition of anonymity, fearing for their safety.

Dozens of families fled the two cities to nearby towns, crammed in cars loaded with their belongings.

Fighters from a pro-government Sunni militia killed six militants in a firefight outside Fallujah on Monday, a police officer said.

Lt. Gen. Rasheed Fleih, who leads the Iraqi army's Anbar Military Command, told state TV that “two to three days” are needed to push the militants out of Fallujah and parts of Ramadi.

Also Monday, militants in a speeding car attacked an Iraqi army checkpoint in the mainly Sunni Baghdad suburb of Abu Ghraib, which is near Anbar, killing two soldiers and wounding four, a police officer and a medical official said.

The Wall Street Journal reported that the fighters claimed Sunday to control a portion of Abu Ghraib, which is some 10 miles

west of the outskirts of Baghdad.

Tensions in Anbar have run high since Dec. 28, when Iraqi security forces arrested a Sunni lawmaker sought on terrorism charges. Two days later, the government dismantled a months-old, anti-government Sunni protest camp, sparking clashes with militants.

On Monday, Pentagon spokesman Col. Steve Warren said the U.S. is expediting the delivery of 100 Hellfire missiles to the Iraqi government.

“These missiles are one small element of a more holistic strategy,” Warren said. “They’ve proven effective at denying [the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant] the safe haven zones it sought to establish in western Iraq.”

The missiles will be delivered in the spring, Warren said.

Iraqi officials confirmed to AP that 75 Hellfire missiles had arrived Dec. 19.

Stars and Stripes' Jon Harper contributed to this report.

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WORLD

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BURNOUT

Employers step in to prevent worker stress, overloading

BY DANICA KIRKA
The Associated Press

Volkswagen turns off some employees' email 30 minutes after their shifts end. Goldman Sachs is urging junior staff to take weekends off. BMW is planning new rules that will keep workers from being contacted after hours.

This surge in corporate beneficence isn't an indication that employers are becoming kinder and gentler; it's about the bottom line. After years in which the ease of instant communication via email and smartphones allowed bosses to place greater and greater demands on white-collar workers, some companies are beginning to set limits, recognizing that successful employees must be able to escape from work.

"Industry is now responding," said Cary Cooper, a professor of organizational psychology and health at Lancaster University, who says the imperative to be constantly reachable by iPhone or tablet is taking a toll on the work delivered at the office. "Employees are turning up, but they're not delivering anything."

After seeing colleagues lose their jobs during the Great Recession, workers are more inclined to come in to work, even when sick, surveys show. After hours, physical presence is replaced by the next best thing — a virtual one. Many employees fear switching off, instead deciding to work on vacation, during dinner and in bed with the help of smartphones, laptops and tablet computers.

The cost of replacing employees who leave in search of better work conditions is also a concern. A study from the Center for American Progress put the cost of turnover at a little more than a fifth of the employee's salary for people making as much as \$75,000 a year. That goes up exponentially for top managers, with turnover costs as high as 213 percent of salary for very highly paid positions.

After worrying about trimming staff numbers during the recession, employers are focusing on how to keep those who are left from burning out.

Job safety

One strategy, which Goldman Sachs has been trying, is to make people feel less at risk in their jobs. That's not easy in most companies, much less so in investment banking, known for its competitive environment and grueling work hours.

To keep junior analysts from burning out in the attempt to prove their worth, the bank has decided to start hiring first-year analysts as permanent employees, instead of taking them on as contract workers.

"The goal is for our analysts to want to be here for a career," said David Solomon, global head of investment banking at Goldman Sachs.

Work conditions in banking came under scrutiny after an intern at Bank of America Merrill Lynch in London died from an epileptic seizure that may have been brought on by fatigue.

It isn't just the junior staff. In November, Hector Sants, a senior executive brought in to help London-based Barclays bank overcome a costly scandal,

resigned after a leave of absence due to stress and exhaustion. The chief executive officer of Lloyds Bank, Antonio Horta Osorio, took time out in 2011. The CEO of AkzoNobel, a Dutch paint and coatings company, did the same last year.

Information overload

Though technology has helped boost worker productivity during the past few decades, it has come with related costs, such as stress.

Technology, for example, is eliminating the downtime or slack that used to be built into the day — such as the time one took going to the library to do research that can now be completed online, said Edward Tenner, author of "Why Things Bite Back: Technology and the Revenge of Unintended Consequences." Those minutes used to act as a buffer that prevented people from working constantly.

Companies haven't yet come to grips with how bad it is, said Jonathan Spira, chief analyst of the New York research firm Basex.

Information overload has decreased people's ability to manage thoughts and ideas. Fixing it means changing company culture — such as the idea that dozens of people need to be cc-ed on a given email.

To get everyone, from interns to CEOs, to not overdo it with the work hours, some companies have resorted to bolder measures.

Quirky, a New York based start-up which shepherds inventions to the marketplace, has instituted a "blackout" week once a quarter during which no one except customer service representatives are allowed to work, lest employees be tempted to check email.

"We all dropped pencils together," said CEO Ben Kaufman, who figured he could bring the idea of re-invention to his own company. "People were getting burned out. They needed to see other things besides their desk."

Having the message come right from the top was important for Shirin Majid, 39, the company's head of digital marketing, who laments not having enough time to spend with her husband and 9-month-old daughter, Ella. In 17 years of public relations work, she has yet to take a vacation devoid of that dreaded phone call from the office.

But not during blackout week. No one could call from the office — since no one was at the office.

"If you know that your boss is checked out, you're going to relax a bit and not worry that you're going to get an email," she said. "You can just have a nap."

All that blackout-inspired creativity is working out for them so far: General Electric just invested \$30 million.



MCT illustration

\$1 TRILLION

The amount that information overload has cost American business in employee time lost to needless emails and other distractions in 2010, according to Jonathan Spira, chief analyst of the New York research firm Basex.

WORLD



DAVID GUTTENFELDER/AP

Former NBA player Dennis Rodman arrives at a hotel in Pyongyang, North Korea, on Monday with a squad of former basketball stars who will play against a team of North Koreans on Wednesday.

Rodman's team touches down for exhibition in North Korea

By ERIC TALMADGE
The Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea — Dennis Rodman said Monday that a game he and other former NBA players are planning in North Korea will be a "birthday present" for one of their most unlikely fans: leader Kim Jong Un.

Rodman's squad — featuring ex-NBA All-Stars Kenny Anderson, Cliff Robinson and Vin Baker — will play against a team of North Koreans on Wednesday, which is believed to be Kim's birthday. The players, who arrived in Pyongyang on Monday, also include Eric "Sleepy" Floyd, guard Doug Christie and Charles D. Smith. Four streetballers also are on the squad.

Rodman told The Associated Press he was glad to be in North Korea, although he said he has gotten death threats for his repeated visits. He said proceeds from the game would go to a charity for the deaf in North Korea.

"The marshal is actually trying to change this country in a great way," Rodman said of Kim, using the leader's official title. "I think that people thought that this was a joke, and Dennis Rodman is just doing this because fame and fortune." Instead, he said, he sees the game as a "birthday present"



KIM KWANG HYON/AP

A North Korean Air Koryo flight attendant peeks out from the aircraft as former NBA All-Star Vin Baker exits the plane.

for Kim and his country.

"Just to even have us here, it's an awesome feeling. I want these guys here to show the world, and speak about North Korea in a great light," he said. "I hope people will have a different view about North Korea."

The game will be another milestone in Rodman's surprising relationship with Kim, who rarely meets with foreigners and about whom very little is known outside

of North Korea. Rodman is the highest-profile American to meet Kim since the leader inherited power after his father, Kim Jong Il, died in late 2011.

Rodman traveled to North Korea for the first time last February with the Harlem Globetrotters for an HBO series. After spending time together, Rodman called Kim a "friend for life" and came back just before Christmas to hold tryouts for the North Korean basketball team, although he did not meet with Kim then.

Rodman has been given the red-carpet treatment during his trips, but visiting North Korea for a high-profile American is a political minefield. To keep the game friendly, the teams will play against each other in the first half, and then mix together in the second.

Americans are regarded as enemies in North Korea since the countries never signed a peace treaty to formally end the 1950-53 Korean War. Thousands of U.S. troops are based in South Korea, and the Demilitarized Zone between the North and South is one of the most heavily fortified borders in the world.

Relations are also tense because of the North's development of nuclear weapons and its threats to use them.

Japan hopes to talk with China, S. Korea about shrine visits

By ELAINE KURTENBACH
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Monday that he wants to explain to leaders in China and South Korea about his visits to the Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo, which honors the country's war dead, but Beijing again called on him to correct his views on Japan's role in World War II.

Abe said that Japan has not made direct overtures, but he hopes the leaders can meet to help resolve antagonism over territorial disputes and historical issues.

"At the moment, there is no plan for a summit meeting, but since there are some difficulties and issues we should be speaking together without setting any preconditions," he told reporters after making a new year's visit to the Grand Shrine of Ise, in western Japan.

"I would really like to explain the intent of my visits to the Yasukuni Shrine directly to them," Abe said. "We are not making any direct approach on this, but the door to dialogue is open. I would like to hold Japan-China and Japan-South Korea summit meetings."

Japan colonized Korea and occupied parts of China before and

during World War II and that often brutal legacy taints relations with its neighbors decades later. China and South Korea reacted angrily to Abe's Dec. 26 visit to the Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo, where 14 class A war criminals are



Abe

enshrined among the 2.5 million war dead.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry has said Abe won't be welcome in Beijing until he admits his mistake.

On Monday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said that to improve relations with Beijing, Abe "needs to correctly view and deeply reflect on the Japan's militarist history of external invasion and colonialism, show sincerity and make concrete efforts to improve ties with neighboring countries."

South Korean President Park Geun-hye blamed Tokyo for the strained ties, and said that any summit with Abe could be held only after sufficient preparations.

South Korea calls for families to be reunited

The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea's president on Monday called for resuming reunions of families separated by war, expressing hopes the humanitarian program would improve strained ties between the rival Koreas.

The call came amid lingering tensions on the Korean Peninsula following Pyongyang's fiery rhetoric and threats of nuclear wars last spring. The two Koreas had planned to hold family reunions in September for the first time in three years but Pyongyang cancelled them at the last minute.

President Park Geun-hye told a televised news conference that she wants the reunions to take place on the occasion of the Lunar New Year's Day later this month to "heal wounded hearts."

She said she hopes the two Koreas would find a new momentum for better ties with the reunions, adding that her government plans to expand inter-Korean civilian exchanges and approve the shipment of more humanitarian assistance to the North.

Later Monday, South Korea sent a message proposing talks on Friday to discuss the reunions, according to Park's Unification Ministry.

Millions of people have been separated since an armistice that ended the 1950-53 Korean War has never been changed to a peace treaty. The reunions are highly emotional as most applicants are in their 70s or older and are eager to see their loved ones before they die. The two Koreas bar ordinary citizens from exchanging letters, phone calls or email.

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OPINION

Far right eyes GOP's midterm hopes

By KATHLEEN PARKER

If you happen to be one of those who enjoy politics as a blood sport, 2014's midterm election promises to be a carnival of gore.

And that's just in the Republican Party. Democrats must be giddy. After ending 2013 with tails tucked, thanks to a series of blunders and misstatements, Democrats were poised to lose control of the Senate. Instead, tea party Republicans seem bent on helping Democrats win.

The formula is familiar by now: Republicans who aren't conservative enough, meaning they might deign to work with Democrats, are targets for primary challenges by folks who often couldn't win a staring contest much less a statewide election.

One need think back only to Delaware's Christine O'Donnell, who is not a witch (because she said so) and who in 2010 defeated the primary favorite, then-Rep. Mike Castle, and handed the Senate seat to Democrat Chris Coons, a relative unknown.

This isn't to say tea party candidates can't succeed because, obviously, they do. Sens. Ted Cruz, of Texas, and Mike Lee, of Utah, come to mind. And then there are the 20 or so House members who, applying the brakes to any tactic considered winnable, cover their ears whenever Speaker John Boehner speaks."

This year presents a rare, and some would say undeserved, opportunity for Republicans. It is a make-or-break moment in the crucial debate about where this coun-

try is heading and who is going to lead it.

Thus far, 21 Democratic and 14 Republican seats are on the ballots. Of those GOP seats, 12 are being defended by incumbents, and two are wide open. Republicans have a better-than-good chance of grabbing seven new seats, more than enough to end the Democratic majority, including three that have been held by soon-to-retire Democrats — Montana's Max Baucus, West Virginia's Jay Rockefeller and South Dakota's Tim Johnson.

Republican efforts to secure those seats have been well underway as GOP leadership has reached out to recruit and train candidates with debate, technology and media preparation. What smart Republicans are aiming for are candidates who can win both a primary and a general election, actual human beings who can appeal to a wide swath of the electorate, not just the purity-proof hard-liners on the right.

Three who fit that category are West Virginia's Shelley Moore Capito, who has served in the House since 2001; North Carolina's Thom Tillis, currently his state's speaker of the House; and Montana's Steve Daines, a congressman who bridges the gap between far right and right.

Adding to Republican momentum is the fact that incumbent Democrats who won in 2008 — a pretty good year for Democrats — may have shorter coattails to clutch this go-round, depending on how the Affordable Care Act fares this year.

But recruiting and training good candidates may not be enough for a Republican

Party still dogged by the purity plank. Tea party organizers have vowed to take on more mainstream candidates, including seven of the 12 Republican incumbents. If a Republican failed to support Cruz's motion to defund Obamacare, it's Outsville.

Capito could be Exhibit A when it comes to a winning candidate undermined by her own party. First, she's from a state where President Barack Obama isn't very popular and she has won re-election handily to serve a total of seven terms. She is a strong advocate for the coal industry and should have no trouble securing her party's nomination. She is also favored to win the general election against Secretary of State Natalie Tennant.

Except. Guess who doesn't like Capito? The conservative Club for Growth and the Republican Liberty Caucus, which calls itself the "conscience of the Republican Party." Last August, a "Too Liberal for West Virginia" campaign was launched against Capito because, among other things, she is pro-choice and voted to raise the debt ceiling. In her stead, the RLC is supporting Republican Pat McGeehan, who served in state House of Delegates from 2008 to 2010 but has lost two state Senate election bids.

Despite having tailwinds at their back, Republicans stand to lose to proud purists while Democrats, feet up, admire the shine on their shoes. Pride in losing does little to contradict Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal's observation that the GOP needs to "stop being the stupid party."

Parker is a member of the Washington Post Writers Group.

2014 black agenda: 5 issues to champion

PENIEL E. JOSEPH

The Root

As we enter into a new year, the black community should remain focused on five key areas that are vital to the promotion of racial justice and economic equality in 2014.

■ **Reducing violence in black communities nationwide.** Chicago's violence-plagued communities have received the most national attention, in part because of President Barack Obama's ties to the city, but also due to its prolific number of murders. The latest victim was a pregnant teenager who died of a gunshot wound to the head. Local activists have done heroic work to stave off increased gun violence, efforts that have drawn the participation of national civil rights leaders such as Al Sharpton. Unfortunately, this has not been enough to stanch the bleeding. Obama must prioritize the issue of violence in predominantly black, brown and poor communities, as the national crisis that it is.

■ **Public school should help black children fulfill the American Dream.** The achievement gap between black and white students in America continues to grow. Too many black children attend overcrowded and underfunded public schools that are racially and economically segregated from mainstream America. Instead of learning to become critical thinkers and tomorrow's leaders, our children are suspended from school at higher rates than their white counterparts, and introduced to the criminal justice system in elementary school. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the landmark Brown v. Board of Education desegregation case. What instantly became a symbol of racial progress is slowly devolving into one of national shame.

■ **Mass incarceration of nonviolent drug offenders must end.** Deteriorating public schools have become a feeder system into the nation's prison-industrial complex. The drug wars of the '80s turned poor black



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

A teacher works with students in her fourth-grade class at Clay Elementary Community Education school in St. Louis.

neighborhoods, including public schools, into incubators of racial injustice and oppression. The social, political and economic stigma attached to felony drug convictions has been defined by legal scholar Michelle Alexander as The New Jim Crow, a new caste system that contains striking parallels with the separate and unequal regimes of racial injustice constructed in slavery's aftermath. Mass incarceration is the civil rights issue of the 21st century, and the black community should utilize this year to push to end a system that discredits our democracy.

■ **Renewing the American Dream for blacks requires a bold jobs program, especially in inner cities.** The unemployment rate for blacks is double that of whites, but in many poor communities the disparities are even more staggering. Chronic unemployment and underemployment fractures families and neighborhoods and chokes off hope. Now is the time for leaders to focus

on a national and targeted jobs program. Obama can start by issuing an executive order to raise the minimum wage for employees doing work related to federal projects.

■ **We need to teach our children the true meaning of racial justice.** This promises to be another year filled with well-deserved commemoration for hard-fought civil rights legislation, anniversaries and demonstrations. Yet if we focus on the past, without providing meaningful context for the present, we can obscure the complexity of the very struggles we seek to celebrate. We can best honor the legacy of Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks and the countless unnamed souls who helped usher in a new freedom era by acknowledging the large task that is ahead of us.

Joseph, a contributing editor at The Root, is founding director of the Center for the Study of Race and Democracy and a history professor at Tufts University.

OPINION

Don't limit the effectiveness of NSA's database

By STEVEN G. BRADBURY

Given the political sensitivities around the National Security Agency and the technical and legal complexities involved in NSA programs, it is perhaps no surprise that the President's Review Group on Intelligence and Communications Technologies produced a glib and unconvincing report.

But a recent defense of that report by one of the group's members, Michael Morell ["NSA group didn't call for rollback of powers," Stars and Stripes, Jan. 2], underscored the contradictions at the report's core.

The group's most alarming recommendations relate to the NSA's telephone metadata program.

Metadata means transactional records of communications, not the content of messages. For telephone calls, it reveals what phone numbers have called other numbers and the time and duration of the calls. Phone companies generate these records for billing purposes.

Most courts have held that no search warrant is required to obtain records like these, as they don't give the government access to anyone's private communications. Regulatory and law enforcement agencies often use subpoenas to collect transactional records to preserve them in a database for later searching as part of an authorized investigation.

That's what the NSA does — though the volume of metadata it collects is far greater, commensurate with the importance of its mission to protect the nation from foreign attack. The NSA collects telephone metadata under a court order approved by the federal judges who sit on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, or FISA, court.

While the volume of data is vast, the NSA's access to it is strictly limited under the court's order. There is no "data mining" or random trolling through the database for suspicious patterns. It may be accessed only when the government has reasonable suspicion that a particular phone number is used by terrorists; that "seed" number is then tested against the database to dis-



AP

cover connections. The NSA is permitted to analyze patterns of connections two to three "hops" out from the seed number.

Only a tiny fraction of the total data is ever reviewed by analysts, but the NSA must have the largest available field of data to find the relevant connections. The agency aggregates the data from several companies, converts the information into an efficiently searchable format and retains it for five years to enable historical analysis.

By revealing patterns of connections to suspected terrorist numbers, this program provides a unique tool for discovering previously unknown phone numbers that may be used by terrorist cells operating within the United States.

In defending the review group's report, Morell acknowledged that if this metadata program had been in place before September 2001, "it would likely have prevented 9/11." He said that the program "has the

potential to prevent the next 9/11."

Yet the review group recommended that Congress pass legislation prohibiting the government from collecting telephone metadata in bulk and requiring that storage of the data be turned over to phone companies or a private third party. It also recommended that the NSA be required to obtain approval from the FISA court each time it wished to query the database. These changes would "slow the process of searching the metadata," Morell acknowledged, but "this loss of flexibility" would be "manageable" and worth the added "protection of personal freedom."

In fact, the recommendations would throttle the effectiveness of the program while introducing significant privacy and national security vulnerabilities.

No phone company maintains all the needed metadata, and none has the capacity or inclination to combine the data from multiple companies and maintain that in-

formation for a sufficient period of years. So the review group's proposal would require ceding control over the database to a private, third-party contractor.

Today the database is kept secure and segregated in the basement of Fort Meade, Md. If it were outsourced to a private contractor, where would this supersensitive data be housed? Probably in some suburban office park and certainly on less secure servers.

The database would be far more vulnerable to privacy breaches and incursions from foreign governments, terrorist groups, criminal organizations and hackers. And the data could be exposed to court-ordered discovery by private litigants in civil lawsuits.

Private contractors with access to the database would also be much less subject to effective oversight by the executive branch, the FISA court and Congress.

Furthermore, requiring court approval in advance for each query of the metadata would severely constrain the program's speed and responsiveness and, if applied to second and third hops from the original seed number, would compromise the program's utility entirely. Insisting on court approval of each reasonable-suspicion determination would impose a legalistic overlay on a judgment designed to be made by seasoned intelligence analysts.

None of these outcomes is desirable, whether for reasons of civil liberties or national security. None should be viewed as acceptable.

If the integrity of the metadata program is put at risk and the NSA's ability to perform its mission significantly hampered, Edward Snowden would realize his objectives. America's vital advantage in communications intelligence would be further degraded, and the dedicated men and women who carry out our intelligence programs would have an even deeper crisis of confidence.

The writer headed the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel from 2005 to 2009 and led the legal effort to obtain initial court approval for the National Security Agency's telephone metadata collection. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

Contraception mandate doesn't violate nuns' rights

The Baltimore Sun editorial

Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor made a reasonable decision when, on New Year's Eve, she temporarily blocked implementation of the Affordable Care Act's contraception coverage mandate in a case brought by a religious order of nuns that operates homes for the poor and elderly in Catonsville, Md., and elsewhere. It certainly doesn't hurt to wait a few days and hear the government's argument for immediate implementation. But the 11th-hour drama doesn't change the fact that the contraceptive coverage requirement is good policy, and the mechanism for groups like the Little Sisters of the Poor to avoid violating their religious tenets is reasonable.

Birth-control pills are often used for medical reasons that have nothing to do with preventing pregnancy. It would make no sense for women who use them, for example, to treat endometriosis to be forced to pay more for them than another drug. Moreover, the cost of unplanned pregnancy on society as a whole and the health care system in particular is enormous. Two years ago, the Guttmacher Institute, which advocates for reproductive health and rights, estimated that the cost to taxpayers was more than \$11 billion annually. Making

birth control as readily available as possible is unquestionably a good investment for the health care system. That's why the Institute of Medicine recommended that it be included in the preventive care coverage of the Affordable Care Act in the first place.

Religious employers like churches are exempt from the contraceptive coverage requirement, and they always have been. For-profit companies whose owners object on religious grounds to contraception are not exempt, though that issue is headed for the Supreme Court via a pair of unrelated lawsuits. Nonprofits that are affiliated with religious institutions — like the Little Sisters — fall into a third category that allows an avenue for avoiding the requirement while still giving lay employees access to birth control.

Last month, U.S. District Judge William J. Martinez agreed with the nuns that they were a religious organization under the act even though they are not a church. Based on the group's history and mission, he said, all they had to do to avoid the substantial penalties the government levies against employers who violate the law was fill out and submit a form to the group administering their employee health care plan. The form amounts to nothing more than a self-certification that "on account of religious objections, the organization opposes pro-

viding coverage for some or all of any contraceptive services that would otherwise be required to be covered; the organization is organized and operates as a nonprofit entity; and the organization holds itself out as a religious organization."

That, presumably, should not be offensive to the nuns' religious beliefs; rather, it affirms them. What they seem to be objecting to is the fact that the form also includes instructions for how the health plan administrator should process claims for contraceptive services to ensure that the Little Sisters are not involved in either the paperwork or payment for them. Since the nuns' health plan administrator, Christian Brothers Services, another Catholic charitable group, says it has no intention of providing contraceptive coverage, that, too, would not seem to be a problem. As Martinez put it, the nuns' continued objection "ignores the factual and legal realities of the case."

Whether the Little Sisters or any similar institution likes it or not, their employees are free to use birth control and doubtless do. Right now, they do so by using one form of the compensation they are provided as employees — their salaries. Yet no one would argue that this fact makes the nuns complicit in the use of contraceptives, or that they should be allowed to

prohibit their workers from shopping in stores where birth control is sold. Under the Affordable Care Act, the workers will have the option of using another form of their compensation — their employer-subsidized health insurance plan — to obtain birth control. The fact that the contraceptives will thus cost the workers less out of pocket doesn't change the fundamental equation. For that matter, the payroll taxes the Little Sisters and other groups pay for their employees may well also support government activities to which they have religious objections.

That said, finding the balance between protecting the beliefs of organizations like the Little Sisters and those of its employees is tricky, and the nuns' contention that they faced an impossible choice between committing what they see as a sin or paying hefty fines should not be taken lightly. For that reason, Sotomayor's grant of a reprieve at least until the government can respond on Friday makes sense. But it doesn't mean the nuns will or should ultimately prevail. One of the consequences of living in a pluralistic democracy rather than a theocracy is that faith groups must accept that they will be touched in some way by beliefs, practices and ways of living of which they disapprove. That's not some new invention of the Affordable Care Act.

NATION



Fliers fight fliers

Falconers offer natural solution in battle with gulls

By GILLIAN FLACCUS
The Associated Press

BREA, Calif. — As trucks disgorged garbage and bulldozers pushed the trash into neat rows, Daniel Hedin stood in the middle of the dump and scanned the gray sky for dirty birds. When a small flock of seagulls drifted in, he looked at the falcon perched on his wrist.

"You ready, baby girl? Hup! Hup!" he said, and blew a whistle.

Zoe exploded into the air, swooping low before rising into a stiff wind to scatter the nervous gulls. Mission accomplished. She returned to Hedin's gloved hand for a reward of raw pigeon meat.

"The ground and the sky can be covered in gulls," Hedin said, stroking Zoe's breast feathers. "For these people operating heavy machines, it's like operating in a blizzard."

The Olinda Alpha Sanitary Landfill has declared war on the nuisance birds, but rather than using air cannons or high-tech scarecrows, it's fighting fliers with fliers. The dump on a plateau high above suburban Orange County in California is part of an explosion in falconry for profit in recent years, with one-time hobbyists launching their raptors into the skies above vineyards, farms, landfills, shopping complexes and golf courses nationwide.

The number of professional falconers nationwide is tiny, but recent changes in federal guidelines have nevertheless created a niche industry that's growing rapidly and changing the dynamics of a sport that dates back millennia.

Since 2007, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has granted 99 special permits to use captive-bred birds of prey for "bird abatement" to chase away avian pests such as starlings, grackles and seagulls.

Companies from California to Texas promise a no-kill, natural solution to cities bedeviled by bird droppings, wineries plagued by grape-snatchers and landfills harassed by gulls that can carry rotten bits of refuse miles from the dump before dropping them in suburban yards.

"It's exploding. I've had to turn away a lot of work, and it's only because I have so many people in line," said falconer Jeff Cattoor, who started BlackJack Bird Abatement in

Fort Worth, Texas, and has seen his business double each year.

He advertises an approach that allows businesses to clean up their properties without using poison. "The most important thing we've accomplished here is giving people an option to do something that isn't a 'scorched earth' approach," he said.

As many as 200 falconers are now in the business nationwide, said Hedin, a contractor who flies his falcons and hawks at the Brea landfill and at a vineyard for Airstrike Bird Control. Hedin brings a Harris hawk and three different types of falcons to the landfill. Each has its own specialty. Some are faster, some better for distance and others for flying into winds up to 60 mph.

Falconers are also finding success using their raptors in locations never tried before, such as at resorts and college campuses and around refineries, Cattoor said.

Some animal rights activists worry the practice exploits the birds and could attract unscrupulous people into a small sporting community that is largely self-policed. The raptors inevitably kill some pest birds despite handlers' efforts, said Martin Mersereau, a director with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

"It's extremely cruel because those targeted bird species are torn apart in unanticipated attacks," he said. "There's nothing natural about jailing raptors in tiny cages, forcing them to wear hoods, hauling them to a bird roost and letting them wreak havoc."

The falconers insist that they are focused on scaring, not killing, birds. They apprentice for years with no pay before getting a license allowing them to use their birds for profit-making purposes. Most still hunt with their raptors in the wild primarily as a sport, not a business.

"People have a very Disney-ized version of nature in their heads, and it's only when a human gets involved that predation becomes real for them," Hedin said.

Most businesses that have hired falconers say the raptors have succeeded where other solutions have failed.

Falconers who work year-round can make up to \$90,000 a year or up to \$800 a day given the right winery job with 14-hour days.

"The most important thing we have accomplished here is giving people an option to do something that isn't a 'scorched earth' approach."

Daniel Hedin
Airstrike Bird Control

PHOTOS BY CHRIS CARLSON/AP

Daniel Hedin, 28, works Mia, a 5-year-old Harris hawk, at the Olinda Alpha Sanitary Landfill in Brea, Calif.

SHIFTING GEARS

Bargain Benz?

CLA delivers the essentials,
but not the experience



MERCEDES-BENZ/MCT

The 2014 Mercedes-Benz CLA-Class is clearly modeled on the “four-door coupe” styling pioneered by the larger Mercedes-Benz CLS, but costs much less.

BY BRIAN THEVENOT
Los Angeles Times

The bottom-of-the-line Benz always faces a tough question: Is it a real Mercedes?

That's a compliment to the venerable German brand's standard-setting build quality. But the question also speaks to the oxymoron inherent in a budget Benz, and the challenge of delivering a bona fide Mercedes for the price of a Ford or a Honda.

Such are the hurdles facing the CLA, a compact sport sedan seeking to set a new standard for affordable luxury and tap into a broad customer base of up-and-comers. Starting at \$30,924, the CLA competes in a crowded space against the higher-end offerings of mainstream automakers and starter sport sedans from traditional rivals.

Mercedes aims to steal customers from both, said Steve Cannon, chief executive of Mercedes-Benz USA.

“You have a car like a Ford Fusion that can sell for as much as \$30,000, so you have Mercedes-Benz competing directly against Ford,” Cannon said.

The CLA has the essentials expected by any Mercedes buyer, even young ones new to the brand. Most important is that intangible sense of bank-vault build quality, and the CLA has it, along with appropriate measures of power, style and handling.

But the CLA falls short on utility, value and, most disappointing, the refined driving experience one expects from any Mercedes, regardless of price.

Most of the blame here falls on the transmission, which on paper should be among the car's biggest selling points. The gearbox is a seven-speed, dual-clutch automated manual, of the kind now found in all the best exotic cars.

Volkswagen Group has been perfecting dual-clutches for years, and not just in premium cars. Those we've tested rip off lightning-quick shifts while never upsetting the chassis. Most impressive, gear changes

often seem better timed and executed in automatic mode than manual mode — the car shifts itself better than you can.

The dual-clutch in the CLA is nothing like that. Gear changes are neither crisp nor intuitive. The transmission seems to be guessing at your driving style, and seems poorly matched with the car's turbocharged 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine.

The motor has plenty of get-up for a small sedan, with 208 horsepower and 258 pound-feet of torque. But like many turbocharged power plants, it takes a moment to spool up to full fury. The gearbox doesn't seem to get that. Hit the accelerator with any force, and the downshift comes too slowly, leaving the engine gasping for torque. When it finally does shift, it often selects too low of a gear, making the car lurch forward abruptly.

The result is that you have to adjust your driving style to the transmission, rather than the other way around.

Speaking of driving style, the Eco and Sport driving modes, which adjust shift points accordingly, both seem to miss the mark. We would trade in both of them for a “normal” driving mode.

The CLA's other shortcoming is space. If

prospective CLA buyers do indeed cross-shop higher-end versions of the Ford Fusion or Honda Accord, the CLA's interior will seem tiny by comparison — tighter than most economy cars'.

Many in the CLA's targeted market will no doubt care less about rear seat room than luxury and functionality, and here the CLA excels like a Mercedes should. Controls are elegantly and logically laid out. Materials are first-rate, with soft-touch dash coverings surrounding a textured metal insert running from the center console to the passenger door. The leather is imitation — dubbed MB-Tex — but didn't feel cheap and likely wears better than the real thing.

The technology package offered simple and functional controls, a rarity in today's cars, even those from luxury brands. A nice, if ironic touch: digital representations of an analog clock and radio dial. Not so nice: the in-dash screen is more of an on-dash screen, sticking out from the console as if mounted with a suction cup.

Handling and ride quality were two other high points. When you can get the transmission and engine speaking to each other, the suspension confidently harnesses the car's

ample power on curvy roads. The CLA definitely tends more toward sport than comfort, but passengers pay little penalty in ride quality for the thrill ride in the twisties.

The CLA also comes with an impressive list of standard safety equipment, including collision prevention systems that warn the driver of impending front-end crashes and automatically prime the brakes. Another system monitors the driver's behavior for indications of drowsiness and sounds an alarm if needed.

Other key amenities on our test car came at a price. A premium package including heated seats, dual-zone climate control, a premium stereo and other amenities added \$2,500. A multimedia package, including navigation, added \$2,700. A set of 18-inch alloy wheels added \$500, and a blind-spot monitoring system added \$550. The total tab: \$36,545, including destination charge.

That's a good bit less than most Mercedes models, to be sure, but hardly chump change.

Do you get a real Mercedes for that money? Yes.

But for the discriminating driver, not a real good one.



'A cautionary tale'

Steve Cannon, chief executive of Mercedes-Benz USA, characterized the CLA as the least expensive “real Mercedes” possible without soiling the brand.

As a cautionary tale, he recalled Cadillac's cut-rate Cimmaron from the 1980s, essentially a duded-up Chevy Cavalier that brought few sales and much shame to GM's luxury marque.

After a two-week test, we can affirm that the CLA is no Cimmaron. Far from it. Whether it delivers on the Mercedes promise is harder to answer.

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Teen accused of false 911 calls to get date

ND FARGO — A West Fargo teenager is accused of falsely reporting fires in an attempt to get a date.

Police Chief Mike Reitan said the 18-year-old high school student twice called 911 on Wednesday to try to get dance practice canceled at a local community center so a dancer would be free to go on a date with him.

The Cass County state's attorney's office is contemplating possible misdemeanor charges of harassment or improper use of 911.

Police chase fugitive snowplow driver

NH MANCHESTER — New Hampshire police say they chased a snowplow driver through two communities in an attempt to arrest him on an outstanding felony warrant.

Hooksett police said they finally caught up with Tyler Payne, 28, on Hooksett Road after a 20-minute chase Saturday morning.

Hooksett police said the outstanding warrant was for receiving stolen property and that Payne also was wanted on a parole violation.

Payne was charged Saturday with reckless operation and disobeying an officer.

Candy-craving thieves fail in warehouse heist

CA HESPERIA — For a pair of thwarted Southern California thieves, taking candy from a well-alarmed warehouse proved a lot harder than taking it from a baby.

Video surveillance captured the would-be candy swipers as they approached Candy Crate's warehouse in Hesperia on Friday. The men broke a window and fled.

The company sells retro sweets like candy cigarettes and Astro Pops.

Candy Crate operations manager Randi Caporale said an alarm went off that likely scared away the thieves, and "not even a Blow Pop" was taken.

Caporale said the warehouse is "in the middle of nowhere, so maybe they thought they'd come in and get their candy on."

DUI suspect rescued from submerged car

SC SUMTER — A quick-thinking rookie police officer in South Carolina is being credited with saving the life of a suspected drunken driver who crashed his car into a frigid pond.

Sumter Police officer Quentin Eley stopped Friday night when he saw two cars stopped on a bridge with their hazard lights. He soon learned there was a car in the water with a man still inside.

Eley dove into the freezing water and was able to force open the door of the submerged vehicle. He pulled out the man inside and brought him to shore.

Rescued driver Ioan Marcel

THE CENSUS

\$3,600

The amount in donations received to build a memorial dedicated to a trophy elk killed by a Boulder, Colo., police officer. Just a few weeks after the elk, dubbed Big Boy by neighbors, was killed on Jan. 1, 2013, about \$3,000 had been collected. But the funding has tapered off. The officer said he shot the elk because it was injured, but an examination found no signs it had been hurt.



JIM AVELIS, (TERRE HAUTE, IND.) TRIBUNE-STAR/AP

Freezing and flinging

Kody and Jordan Henderson carry a pack of discs for golfers Saturday in the annual Freeze Through the Trees disc golf tournament in Terre Haute, Ind.

Cimpean, 38, refused treatment at the hospital, and was arrested and charged with DUI.

Police: Woman tried to swim from traffic stop

OR ROSEBURG — Myrtle Creek police say a woman was arrested last week after she tried to swim away from officers during a traffic stop.

Chief Don Brown said Kathryn Ann Goodyear, 21, took off as officers discovered her passenger had marijuana. She went to the South Umpqua River near Interstate 5 and jumped in.

The chief said Goodyear tried to swim across, but couldn't make it and returned to the riverbank.

Goodyear was booked into the Douglas County Jail on suspicion of third-degree escape and attempting to elude an officer on foot.

Her passenger, Aaron Canterbury, 32, of York, Pa., was arrested on suspicion of unlawful possession of marijuana and unlawful possession or concealment of a firearm.

Brown said police found 95.3 grams of marijuana in a jar.

Mother of 5 faces 6th drunken-driving offense

SD SIOUX FALLS — A Sioux Falls mother of five has been arrested for a sixth drunken-driving offense after an off-duty police officer spotted her driving on a sidewalk on New Year's Eve with two children in her car.

Nichole Kroger, 36, faces several charges including drunken driving, having an open container of alcohol in a vehicle and child abuse. Authorities say her blood-alcohol level was nearly three times the legal limit for driving when she was caught behind the wheel with an 8-year-old and a 10-year-old in the backseat. She was jailed on \$10,000 bail.

Kroger's last DUI conviction was in 2009. She was sentenced to five years in prison and served two years before being paroled.

Police officers on Tuesday were alerted by an off-duty colleague who said he observed Kroger driving on the sidewalk. Police said her driving speeds as they followed her ranged from 5 mph to 50 mph.

Homemade cannon explodes, injuring man

NC LINCOLNTON — Authorities say a Lincolnton man was injured when a homemade black powder cannon exploded in his face.

Deputies went to a home about 1:15 a.m. Wednesday and found Timothy Crouse Hester, 41, lying against a door with serious head injuries.

A woman told officers that she heard a loud explosion, then saw Hester fly across the porch.

Hester had been shooting the canon during the night to celebrate the new year.

Hester was taken to the hospital for treatment of eye injuries and burns on his face.

Deaf inmates sue over accommodations

KY LOUISVILLE — A group of deaf and hearing-impaired Kentucky prison inmates are suing the state seeking to force the Department of Corrections to provide interpreter services for medical visits,

videophones and other hearing devices.

The inmates, in a 35-page lawsuit filed Wednesday in federal court in Frankfort, claim the Corrections Department is discriminating against them by refusing to provide the accommodations.

Without assistance, the inmates say, they can't adequately communicate with staff, other inmates or their lawyers, depriving them of rights granted to other inmates.

Truck hauling helicopter crashes on NY Thruway

NY PEMBROKE — State police say a Mercy Flight helicopter fell off a tractor-trailer after the truck crashed into the median of the Thruway in western New York.

Troopers said the truck was in the eastbound lanes of Interstate 90 when it crashed and overturned about 10:30 a.m. Friday in Pembroke, 25 miles east of Buffalo.

Police said both the truck and the helicopter came to rest in the snow-covered median. No injuries were reported.

From wire reports

FACES

'Frozen' still solid

Disney film tops box office, crosses \$600 million mark

From wire reports

On a wintry weekend, Disney's "Frozen" retook the box-office top spot with \$20.7 million, freezing out the horror spinoff "Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones."

"The Marked Ones" debuted in second place with \$18.2 million, a total that includes Thursday-night screenings, according to Paramount studio estimates Sunday. The film is a standalone story spun off from the lucrative, low-budget horror franchise "Paranormal Activity," the fifth of which will be released in October.

But it wasn't able to overcome Disney's animated "Frozen," which has been a hit for family audiences for the past seven weeks. It has now surpassed \$600 million worldwide, making it the second-highest grossing Disney Animation release, behind "The Lion King." It will soon pass that film's \$312 million domestic haul, too.

It's extremely rare for a film to lead the box office in its seventh weekend, a feat accomplished by the likes of "Avatar" and, to go further back, "Legends of the Fall." It's rarer still for a film to retake the box-office lead so late in its theatrical run. The last movie to do so was Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" in 2004, according to box-office tracker Rentrak.

Another holdover, "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug," came in third with \$16.3 million in its fourth week of release after narrowly topping the busy Christmas weekend box office. Like "Frozen," Peter Jackson's second installment of his "Hobbit" trilogy has benefited from the lengthy holiday moviegoing

season. Its domestic total is \$229.6 million.

The snow and icy temperatures battering the Midwest and Northeast likely tempered the weekend's box-office business.

"Everyone probably suffered a little bit from the weather," said Don Harris, head of domestic distribution for Paramount.

"The Marked Ones," made for just \$5 million and starring a largely Hispanic cast, was the lone new wide release in the marketplace, as the large batch of late December releases looked to separate themselves from the pack.

"The Hunger Games: Catching Fire" pushed its domestic gross to a staggering \$407.5 million, which put it on track to beat the \$409 million of the highest-grossing film of 2013, "Iron Man 3."

Director Martin Scorsese's lascivious "The Wolf of Wall Street" came in at No. 4 with \$13.4 million. Its buzz is growing, however, and it remains a film to watch during awards season.

Also in the Oscars race: "American Hustle" and "Saving Mr. Banks," both of which continued to draw crowds. The former generated \$13.2 million for the No. 5 spot, and the latter came in at No. 7 with \$9.1 million.

Having a harder time finding audiences are "47 Ronin" starring Keanu Reeves (a \$175 million bomb for Universal earning \$32.6 million in two weeks), the Robert De Niro-Sylvester Stallone boxing comedy "Grudge Match" (\$24.9 million in two weeks for Warner Bros.) and Ben Stiller's "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" (\$45.7 million in two weeks for 20th Century Fox).

It's extremely rare for a film to lead the box office in its seventh weekend. It's rarer still for a film to retake the box-office lead so late in its theatrical run.



Everly Brothers' bond strong to the end

The infighting and hard feelings between The Everly Brothers were well-known, but surviving brother Don felt he had a special moment with his brother Phil before Phil's passing Friday — even if the two weren't together at the time.

"I was listening to one of my favorite songs that Phil wrote and had an extreme emotional moment just before I got the news of his passing," Don Everly wrote in a statement released to The Associated Press on Saturday morning. "I took that as a special spiritual message from Phil saying goodbye. Our love was and will always be deeper than any earthly differences we might have had."

Phil Everly died Friday in California from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. He was 74.

The Everly Brothers were arguably the most influential vocal duo in music history. They brought their love of country music to rock 'n' roll in the 1950s and 1960s, transforming the pop charts of the day and inspiring legions of young proto rockers like the Beatles, Bob Dylan and the Byrds who would go on to change popular culture. Songs like "Bye



AP

Phil, left, and Don Everly, of the musical group The Everly Brothers, appear in 1984. Phil Everly died Jan. 3 of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

"Bye Love" and "Wake Up Little Susie" hooked listeners with their deceptively simple harmonies that hid greater meaning in songs that were dark and new compared with the pop music of the day.

The two broke up amid quarreling in 1973 after 16 years of hits, then reunited in 1983, "sealing it with a hug," Phil Everly said.

"I loved my brother very much," wrote Don Everly, 76. "I always thought I'd be the one to go first. ... The world might be mourning an Everly Brother, but I'm mourning my brother Phil Everly."

From The Associated Press

Eurythmics to reunite for Beatles tribute

The Associated Press

The Eurythmics are reuniting — to pay tribute to the Beatles.

The Recording Academy announced Monday that Annie Lennox and Dave Stewart will perform as a duo for "The Night That Changed America: A Grammy Salute to the Beatles." The event will be taped at the Los Angeles Convention Center on Jan. 27, a day after the Grammy Awards.

Longtime Grammys producer Ken Ehrlich, who is also producing the Beatles special, thought the Eurythmics would be ideal to honor the iconic group.

"When it came around to booking this show, what I felt was important was to try and find those artists who not only would be able to interpret Beatles songs, but would also have an ... understanding of what they meant," he said in an interview.

The Eurythmics, who sold millions of albums and whose hits include "Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This)," released their debut in 1981. Ehrlich said Lennox and Stewart, who have launched successful solo careers, are thrilled

to perform in tribute to the Beatles.

Ehrlich wouldn't say which Beatles tune the British duo would perform, but John Mayer and Keith Urban will pair up to perform "Don't Let Me Down," while Alicia Keys and John Legend will perform a duet on "Let It Be." Maroon 5 also will perform.

The special will air stateside on Feb. 9 — exactly 50 years after the Beatles made their U.S. debut on "The Ed Sullivan Show."

Ke\$ha enters rehab for eating disorder

"Tik Tok" singer Ke\$ha said in a statement provided by her spokesman Friday that she'll be unavailable for the next 30 days while she seeks treatment for an undisclosed eating disorder.

"I'm a crusader for being yourself and loving yourself, but I've found it hard to practice," she said.

The 26-year-old vegetarian pop star, whose real name is Kesha Rose Sebort, said she wants to "learn to love myself again, exactly as I am." No other details were provided.

'Llewyn Davis' picked by NY critics as best film

The National Society of Film Critics has chosen "Inside Llewyn Davis" as the best picture of 2013 at its annual meeting.

The group also presented its best director award to Joel and Ethan Coen. They directed "Inside Llewyn Davis," the story of a fictional folk singer in Greenwich Village in 1961.

The group named Oscar Isaac best actor for "Inside Llewyn Davis." Cate Blanchett was named best actress for the Woody Allen film "Blue Jasmine."

Other news

■ Action-movie star **Steven Seagal, 61**, told KNXV-TV that he is considering a run for Arizona governor.

■ **Jim Norton** will join James Franco and Chris O'Dowd in the Broadway revival of "Of Mice and Men." The play hasn't been performed on Broadway in 40 years.

■ Rapper-actress **Eve, 35**, is engaged to 41-year-old British designer Maximillion Cooper.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

New wearable gadgets to be unveiled

By RYAN NAKASHIMA
The Associated Press
LAS VEGAS — Will 2014 be remembered as the year wearable computing took off? Upstart entrepreneurs and major manufacturers such as Samsung, Qualcomm and Sony certainly hope so.

Gadgets that you snap, buckle or fasten to your body are already marketed to fitness freaks obsessed with tracking every possible metric their bodies produce. There are countless smartwatches for tech nerds who'd rather glance at their wrists to check messages than reach for their smartphones, and thousands of people are already seeing the world differently with the help of the Internet-connected eyewear Google Glass.

Even with the possibilities those devices offer today, gadget lovers can expect technology companies to stretch the wearable concept further this week in Las Vegas at the International CES event, the

industry's annual trade show. Several companies are expected to unveil wearable devices that are easier to use, extend battery life and tap into the power of gestures, social networks and cloud computing.

The wearables wave is still in its early phases. Many of the technologies on display will offer a glimpse of the future — not necessarily products that are ready for the mainstream consumer.

These new gadgets are “like the first generation of the iPod,” said Gary Shapiro, chief executive of the Consumer Electronics Association, the group that has hosted the trade show since 1967. “It was bulky and it wasn't that pretty. Look what happened. It got slimmer. It got better.”

Industry analysts' estimates for the growth of wearables are rosy. Research firm IHS says the global wearables market — which also includes health products like hearing aids and heart-rate monitors — could top \$30 billion in 2018, up from nearly \$10 billion

at the end of 2013.

While some of the growth will come from an aging population that requires more health-related monitoring at home, devices like the Fitbit Force activity band — which tracks a wearer's steps, calories burned, sleeping patterns and progress toward fitness goals — are also expected to gain popularity as deskbound workers look for new ways to watch their waistlines.

At this week's show, companies are likely to introduce improvements in wearable screens and battery life, said Shane Walker, an IHS analyst. The two are linked because the more a device tries to do, the more battery power it consumes. That creates demand for innovative, low-power screens and for ways to interact with devices that don't rely on the screen, such as using hand gestures and voice.

“With wearable technology, it's all about battery consumption,” Walker said.

What's driving the boom in

wearable device innovation is the recent widespread availability of inexpensive sensors known as microelectromechanical systems, or MEMS. These are tiny components like accelerometers and gyroscopes that, for instance, make it possible for smartphones to respond to shaking and for tablets to double as steering wheels in video games.

There are also sensors that respond to pressure, temperature and even blood sugar. Toronto-based Bionym Inc. will show off its Nymi wristband at CES. The gadget verifies a user's identity by determining his or her unique heartbeat. The technology could one day supplant the need for passwords, car keys and wallets.

“I think you're going to see a lot of maturity in 2014 in the way companies think about their business,” said J.P. Gownder, an analyst with Forrester Research.

Right now, the market is a swirling cauldron of ideas and products. Eventually, a winner may emerge.

EXCHANGE RATES

Table with 2 columns: Currency, Rate. Rows include Military rates (Euro costs, British pounds, etc.) and Commercial rates (Bahrain Dinar, British pound, etc.).

Commercial rates

Table with 2 columns: Currency, Rate. Rows include Bahrain (Dinar), British pound, Canada (Dollar), China (Yuan), Denmark (Krone), etc.

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Table with 2 columns: Rate Type, Rate. Rows include Prime rate, Discount rate, Federal funds market rate, etc.

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Table with 3 columns: City, Hi, Lo, Wthr. Rows include Tuesday's US temperatures for various cities like Abilene, Texas; Akron, Ohio; Albany, N.Y.; Albuquerque, etc.

Stripes

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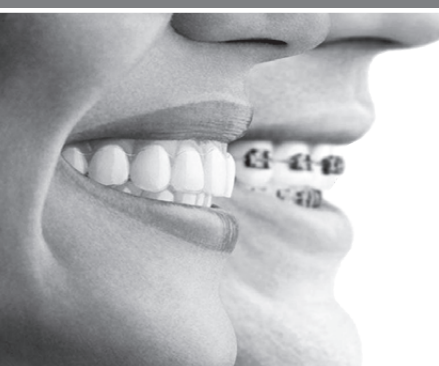
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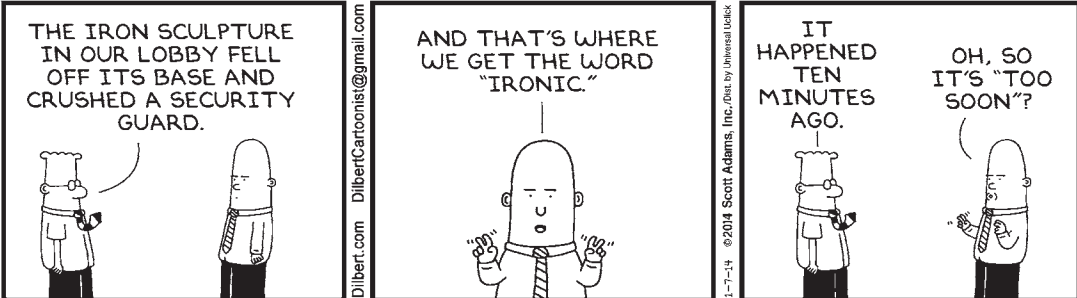
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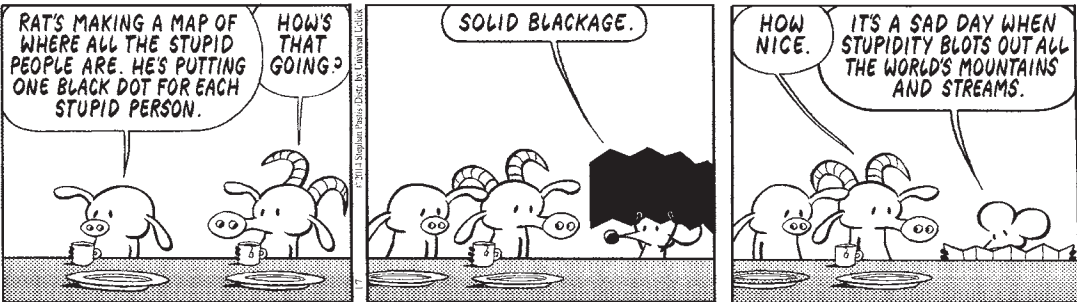
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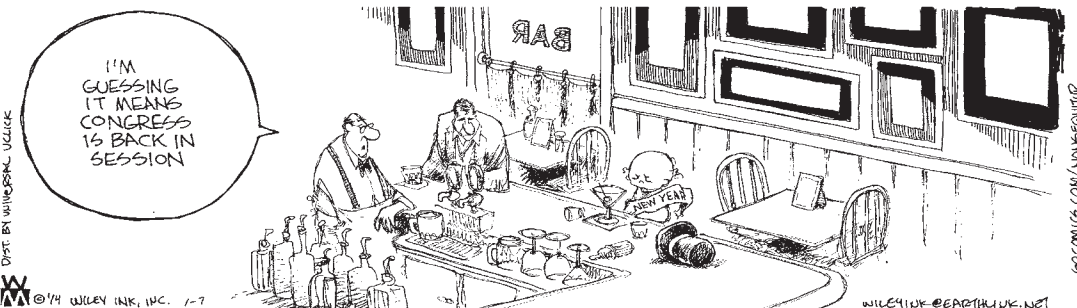
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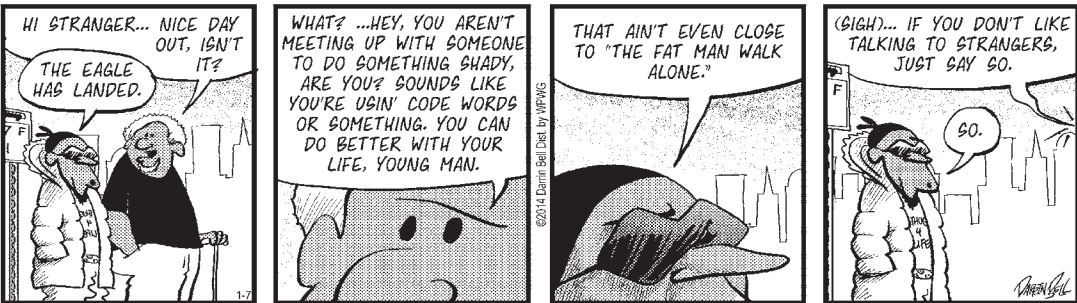
Pearls Before Swine



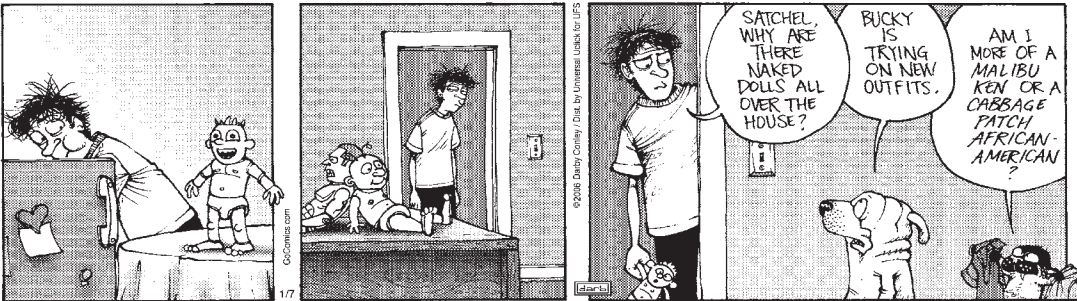
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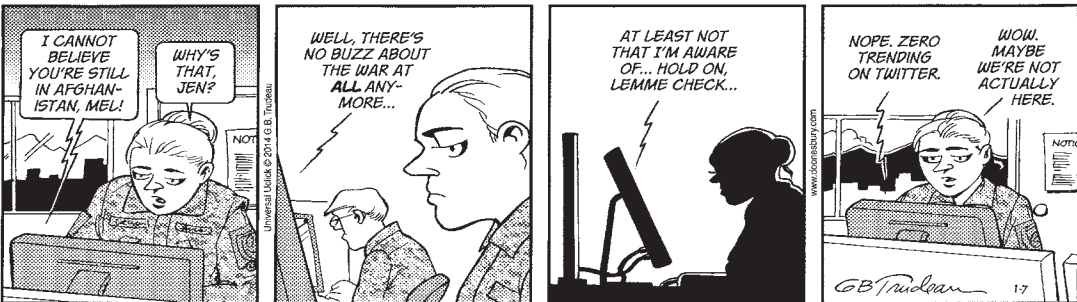
Candorville



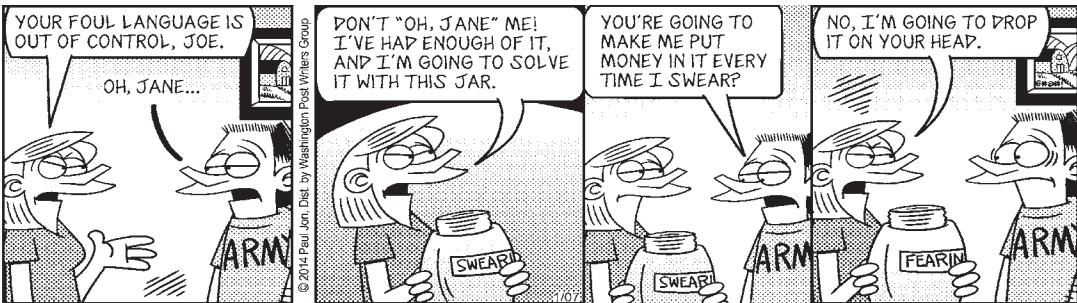
Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16			17				
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40	41	42				43				44	45	46
47					48				49			
50					51				52			
53					54				55			

ACROSS

- 1 Game played on horseback
5 Pouch
8 Bed frame part
12 Related (to)
13 Past
14 Gabrielle Chanel
15 Larch or birch
16 Cursive writing
18 Purse
20 Wild West show
21 Wander
22 Greet the villain
23 Copier need
26 Certain homeless person
30 Night before
31 Sawbuck
32 Travail
33 Colorful beetle
36 Charles, Prince of —
38 Dine
39 Feedbag tidbit
40 Year's record
43 Imaginary source of fear
47 With "on," emphasize
49 Therefore
50 "— Free"
51 Fond du —, Wis.
52 Ignore
53 Tackles' teammates
54 Coloring agent

55 Golf props

DOWN

- 1 Maze choice
2 Gumbo ingredient
3 Property claim
4 Nervous
5 Dieter's entree
6 Quite enthusiastic
7 Swindle
8 Group of grouper
9 Laundry unit
10 Zits
11 — list (agenda)
17 Pirates' potation
19 Prohibit
22 Prohibit
23 Part of AT&T
24 Eggs
25 Homer's neighbor
26 Plead
27 Piercing tool
28 Female deer
29 "Of course"
31 Historic boy king
34 Longs
35 Hardly hirsute
36 Vacillate
37 Optimally
39 "An — of prevention ..."
40 Singer Lane
41 Night light?
42 Ancient ointment
43 NYC theater district, for short
44 Sea eagle
45 Chills and fever
46 Plagiarizes
48 On in years

Answer to Previous Puzzle

B	I	K	E		W	E	B		D	A	T	A
E	D	E	N		A	R	E		O	B	I	S
R	E	E	F		S	A	N	D	W	I	C	H
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			I	M	P		S	E	A	U		
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T	A	L	E		T	E	L		R	E	N	D

1-7

CRYPTOQUIP

Q R C D F J M R L X J C D H I P E J F F
Z H R C T Q A T J F A G L H A G G J C T Q B
R Q F I J P T Q B F D M D Q A G :

" J H R R E O T X G J Z D O . "
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A LIVE PERFORMING DUO THAT ACTED OUT SILENT SCENES THOUGHT OF THEMSELVES AS PARTNERS IN MIME.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals O

FREE AD Guidelines:

- Free ads are available only DOD ID Card holders selling personal merchandise.
- Ads may contain up to 32 words. All Ads must contain price and contact information. No websites will be accepted in Free ads.
- Stars and Stripes reserves the right to re-classify, rewrite and reject any ads.

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Announcements 040

SCAM FADS

Classifieds scams can target both sellers and buyers with classified advertisements.

Be aware of the common red flags.

Some of the latest Scam fads are:

- Vehicle buyers wanting to buy sight unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using paypal.
- People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

Automotive 140

SELLER BEWARE

Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. Stars and Stripes is not liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

Automotive 140

Ford Explorer Front Brake Pads NEW. Explorer, 2003 \$35.00 Brand new in the box. Purchased for 2003 for Explorer 4.0L Flex Fuel, Duralast Gold Cmax-brake Pads. Front Part Number: DGC833, Notes: Premium ceramic
kid_19440@yahoo.com

Automotive 140

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Automotive 140

Ford, Mustang, 2013 Update your mustang with Salvaged 2013 Shelby GT500 parts: Complete 6 speed transmission package (all parts), performance differential with HP adjustable shocks, springs and stabilizer, complete exhaust, 19 (2) and 20 (2) inch wheels. Composit drive shaft, 15" Brembo brakes hill@pjsnet.de hubert.hill.cv@mail.mil

Automotive 140

General Altimax Arctic, Winter Tires 2013 \$350.00 Brand new set (still in package) of General Altimax Arctic winter tires, mounted & balanced with silver hubcaps. Size 185 60R-15; 4 hole rims (15x6, 106mm) (fits for exord, Ford Fiesta). carlosdeleon38@hotmail.com

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Audi, A6, 1998 \$4800.00 This is an Audi A6 4 door. With CD player and a base system Boom Box, comes with winter tires and a set of rims for summer tires. Black painted rims. This car also has under the dashboard blue lights on both sides that lights up the front economy. Power windows, power locks, heated seats, Power 165km (121 kw), German Spec auto. child lock windows. It is a 2.4. 0152227269001 jkpm1@me.com

AUDI, A6 QUATTRO, 1995 \$1500.00 German Specs. Automatic transmission, All Wheel Drive, Heated Leather Seats (both front and rear), Wood grain trim, Car alarm, CD player, New Summer tires and Sport rims (only used 2 mos). AC (needs Freon charge). Car driven from Ansbach to Ramstein, Italy and Garmisch often. Great family car and spacious for hauling large items inside. Car gets 700+km per full tank of gas. 235,000km of autobahn kilometers! tclavona@i.com 01622550236 or 01622565908

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Autos for Sale - Germany 142

BMW 325i SEDAN, 2003 \$6700.00 Very well maintained orient blue US Spec. BMW sedan, with all the luxury extra's. Navi US & GE, DVD, CD, TV, Radio, 16" alloy wheels, chrome 19" rims and tires, plus new 17" rims and tires incl. Leather interior, wood grain trim, sun roof, rubber mates f rear, rubber male liner in trunk, automatic V6, step-tronics trans. 184 hp. Gorgeous second or primary vehicle. 334-4520 rand y.l.griffin3.civ@mail.mil

BMW 335i xDrive Sport Line, 2013 \$42500.00 I am PCSing soon The car has 14,500 miles on it and comes with 2 sets of tires on rims (winter & summer). Its Mineral Grey Metallic with Black Leather w red piping (stitching) This car is fully loaded with Sport Automatic, Cold Weather Package, Driver Assistance Package, Parking Package Premium Package, Premium Sound Package, Sport Line, Technology Package, Aluminum Trim, BMW Assist, and BMW Apps. 0171-337-2798 rya nmoore78@gmail.com

Chevrolet, Corvette Z06, 2001 \$20000.00, with super low miles 56,500. New front tires, rear tires are good. Needs nothing. In great shape. New transmission stage 2 buildup, new stage 2 clutch, new torque tube, and rebuilt rear end. Super fast and handles amazing. Ready for autobahn and Nurburgring action. Only modifications are cold air intake and Borla catback exhaust which sounds great. We just had our 4th child and we dont have time to enjoy this car. Its being kept in my garage here in Bad Windsheim. If interested call or text 015151101561. 015156782462 skullz_neric@yahoo.com

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Chevy, Colorado Truck, 2004 \$10633.00 Crew Cab 126.0" WB 4WD Condition: Good Engine: 3.5L DOHC, 5-CYLINDER, MFI Transmission: 4-SPEED AUTO, 5-SPD, ELECTRONICALLY CONTROLLED WITH OVER-DRIVE, TRAILER HITCH \$10,633.00, 01627219277 chris.henon@arm.org

Chrysler, Grand Caravan, 2000 \$2750.00 New Inspection Good Till Feb 2015. New Brake Lines, New Brake pads, New Tires, New Rotors. New Oil Pan, CD player, power windows, power locks, cruise control. 015227269001 jkpm1@me.com

Chrysler, Challenger RT, 2009 \$26500.00 5.7 liter Hemi 380 HP, 5 Speed Automatic with manual shifting mode 27K miles, brand new dealer installed (Aug) engine with warranty New American Torq-Thrust 20 inch rims & tires DVD, Prem. sound, Voice ecoog, HiND MP3, CD, Navigation, Sirius, black leather, Heated seats, Keyless FOB, Remote-Start, Huggler Orange 06048-952218 roger.m.stegall.civ@mail.mil

Ford, F-150, 2009 \$25000.00 Supercab 4.6 ltr V8 4x4 Truck 6F bed Power Windows & locks CD-player tow-package, side boards like new less than 46000 miles 01627219277 chris.henon@arm.org

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Ford, F 150 4X4 Crew Cab, 2001 \$4500.00 New tires needs a little work Engine and tran great billy.carter.af@gmail.com

Ford, Mustang Convertible, 2010 \$16000.00 OUTSTANDING CONDITION 11300 miles all maintenance performed at FORD dealership, USAREUR inspection good until Aug 2014 Power sandstone top \$16000. Low mileage perfect condition. Have clear title. Averages 27 MPG on Highway and 23 in town pretty good for a Muscle Car, Korla Blue Automatic Transmission and all other standard features including MP3 input All weather car cover included Just had the annual service at Ford in September and has All season tires no switching wheels and tires in the winter. Call 01573843984 or 061457098 Please leave a message and please serious offers only. 015738439984

Honda, Civic EX, 2012 \$5000.00 sale is black, Local interest, buyers can view the car at the Wiesbaden MWR Vehicle resale lot by the Entertainment Center. Feature Highlights: Automatic Transmission, 6, 100 Miles, Sony XNV Navigation with All of Europe Maps Backup Camera 8" powered Bazooka Subwoofer Moon roof Plus all standard features of the EX trim level For more questions or to request additional pictures or information, call 015151101561 kylecox103@msn.com=

Honda, Civic HX, 1998 \$2000.00. I am only the 3rd owner since purchased new in 1998. Well maintained, full tune up every year. Heater, defrost, and AC work great. CD player, power mirrors, power windows. No body damage, good tires. Very dependable car, never had an issue with it. 015151101561 isahawk@yahoo.com

Honda, Odyssey Ex, 2001 \$3700.00 Yeah...192,000 miles, but still many more reliable miles left. Would not give a second thought to comfortably and safely transporting six passengers on a trip through the Swiss Alps to Italy. Engine and interior in great condition. New transmission cost 130,000. Priced at low Kelly Blue Book due to scratches, dents, and dings following successful battles with German parking garages. Available 5 Jan 2014. \$3700 obo. scumilling@gmail.com

Jeep, Grand Cherokee Laredo, 2011 \$24000.00 I can't speak highly enough of this vehicle. I have come to the conclusion that I don't NEED it! Cloth interior and has basic accessories. Slightly HAWN.MILES1982@GMAIL.COM

KIA, FORTE EX GDI, 2014 \$2400.00 AWESOME CAR! SELLING BECAUSE WE GRE OUT OF IT!! everything that kia offers is in this car; navigation, sunroof, heated front and rear seats, cooled front driver seat, radio, cruise, touch screen navigation, dvd player, and 17 inch wheels SILVER OUTSIDE BLACK LEATHER INSIDE!! EXCELLENTE CONDITION!!! espiti a.megan@yahoo.com

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Mustang, GT Premium, 2007 \$18000.00 Grabber Orange 4.6 ltr. air, abs, fog-lights, spoiler, cruise, sport package, HAS ALL \$18,000.00 01627219277 chris.henon@arm.org

Nissan, Sentra, 2010 \$8500.00 Very nice condition. Great car for traveling. Easy to drive. 75000 miles, Handles very well in all road conditions. Great gas mileage. wochsper. Ph: 0152 389 741 86 486-8420, jcambryahoo.com

TOYOTA, Seinna XLE, 2000 \$3995.00 Price REDUCED, input 100000 Miles, 6-Cyl 3.0L Automatic Transmission, Mileage: 163K, U.S. Specs, 4 Brand New TIRES! Front Wheel Drive, Cruise Control, AC, Moon Roof, Tilt Wheel, Leather Seats, Power Steering, Power Windows & Seat, AM FM Stereo 6 CD Changer, ABS, Portable DVD Player, with (2) Screens, TOMTOM Navigation System with European Maps, Tow Package, Roof Rack, Alloy Wheels, Dual Air Bags, Kelly Blue Book value \$4,398. US & NATO ID Card, ONLY Available on 24JAN14 date is Negotiable rob.mackson@hotmail.com

Volvo, C30, 2009 \$14500.00 15 Hatchback 2DR, Black, US specs, 1 owner, great condition. dawnspry@gmail.com

Volvo, XC 90, Ocean Race Edition, 2006 \$16000.00, Special Ocean-Race Edition, Euro Specs, 2.4 L D5 Diesel engine with 185 HP great on gas! Heated leatherseats, manual transmission, Volvo high performance sound radio & cd-system with built in car phone (x-tra, SIM-card required!). Multi-function steering wheel, navigation system, bi-xenon headlights, fog-lights, park-distance-control, trip-computer, 2-zone AC, cruise control, AWD, summer tires on 18" alu-rims + extra winter tires on 17" alu-rims. Last service in Aug 2013! Great family car! +49 (0)170 2 4 2 9 4 9 0 k r i s unleashthesky.com

Volvo, XC90 R-Design, 2010 \$27999.00 3.2 AWD, 6 speed geartronic, 46,000 miles, black Sapphire metallic, automatic, air conditioning, third row seating, power/heated seats, power lock & windows & sunroof, cruise control, CD player, navigation system, xenon active bending lights, tinted windows, 19in factory wheels with summer tires (wheels currently on the car won't be sold. I attached a picture of the factory R-Design wheels). Floor mats are brand new! Extras: Multimedia Package, BLIS blind spot indicator (no tion system), Climate Package. 0176-10332547 frankandness@gmail.com

Autos for Sale - Italy 144

Jeep, Wrangler Rubicon Unlimited 4x4, 2011 \$30000.00 Camp Darby, California. No Jeep Rubicon Unlimited 4x4. 6 Speed Manual transmission, approx 25,000 miles, hard & soft top, cruise, touch screen navigation, dvd player, and more. ASKING \$30,000 OBO. +393423529812 jeffrey.kolb@yahoo.com

Autos for Sale - Benelux 150

Toyota, RAV 4 2.2 D-CAT 4x4 So, 2006 \$14450.00 EU Spec Garaged, simultaneous five-CD change player, extinguishers. Non smoking vehicle, well maintained service history, MOT 05 /05, last service was done 05 /03, ABS, Alloy Wheels, Passenger airbag, Electric windows, ESP, Air conditioning, Climate control, Fog lights, Radio, Side airbag, Power Steering, Cruise control, Traction control, Immobilizer Transmission type: Manual transmission Transitions: 6 Speed, 4 Cylinder, Diesel Fuel 015256108188 jonathon.cureton@yahoo.com

Motorcycles 164

Harley Davidson, Electra-Glide Ultra Classic, 2009 \$16000.00 Inspected Oct. 2013. For sale is an almost new Black Pearl Harley FLHTCU-I with 7,550 miles on it. Service was just completed in August along with a brand new battery. The bike will be sold with the current Screaming Eagle Stage-1 kit, custom air cleaner, Screaming Eagle mufflers, Klock Work front windshield, and Harley Davidson leather covers for both the front fairing and hand bags. This is a great running bike that is ready to go; only selling because I have found a new toy. All original part are available as well. Serious inquiries and offers only please. New Year 015140709607 david.takaki mfe.usmc.mil

Harley Davidson, Road King FLHR, 2009 \$12500.00 I've put about 100 miles on this bike in the last 12 months and just don't have time for it anymore. I have over \$22,000 invested and my lowest priced offer. The bike as after-market HD hand grips, lighted passenger foot rests, lighted mirrors and Vance&Hines slip on exhaust. Addition Zumo 660 (Europe maps), speakers, heated HD gloves, HD rain suit and touring bike service manual. Bike is paid for and located on Clay's Aerne (Wiesbaden). +491622676445 pdefothotmail.com

Harley Davidson, Sportster 883XL, 2007 \$5800.00 with 1,852 Miles. Garage kept and looking new. Has never been dropped. We pass inspection without a problem. Has a few upgrades all bought from Harley Davidson catalog, upgrades are: Chrome LED Taillight Chrome Flame smoked lens, turn signals front turn signals relocated Rear turn signals relocated to license plate mount to allow for saddle bags (license plate mount is the European version to allow for the bigger license plate) Gloss black, flushed gas cap Willie G grips and shifter peg Rear passenger pillion and pegs HD Security with Key FOB All original parts are included the deal in case you feel the need to change it back. Motorcycle cover included. Located in the Grafenwoehr area. Reasonable offers will be considered 015154632077 alejandro.fuentecilla@yahoo.com

Motorcycles 164

Kawasaki, KE 175 Enduro, 1981 \$150.00 Inspected and ready for USAREUR registration. Call deliver. 0171-473-9782

Kawasaki, Ninja 600, 2003 \$3000.00 located in ansbach great condition just had an oil change and new spark plugs! will include helmet jacket and cover has 10k miles on it selling due to pcs sylvannamarie@hotmail.com

Books 250

UMUC History of Europe in the Twentieth Century \$49.00 School book: A History of Europe in the Twentieth Century (Eric Dom Brose) This last century of European history is situated between a violent and authoritarian past and the dawn of a more democratic and peaceful period—an era that may represent the future. Written in a vivid and accessible style, A History of Europe in the Twentieth Century examines the continent's descent into the turmoil of two world wars, the tense cold war standoff between the victors, and finally the beginning of ... kid_19440@yahoo.com

Furniture 510

Dinning Room Table and Chairs \$350.00 This is a wood table and 4 chairs. the table in the picture is at the max can sit up to 6. The table also can shrink to a round table for 4. A great table and chairs. Chairs one year old New cost 69 Euros each. 015227269001 jkpm1 me.com

Drawer Unit Birch Wood \$350.00 This is a good item for the kitchen. Has three drawers, and a cutting board on top. mass wood on top. 015227269001 jkpm1@me.com

Furniture/Appliances 511

Vacuum \$110.00 This is a wireless Vacuum. it has a hand Vacuum in the back for small areas. 015227269001 jkpm1me.com

Home Electronics 570

Refrigerator 220V \$485.00 This is a German Refrigerator one year old. has a freezer three drawer. 015227269001 jkpm1 me.com

TOM TOM GO 500 \$140.00 This is a TomTom Go 500 EU map 6 months old. 015227269001 jkpm1me.com

Person to Person 800

Stars and Stripes reserves the right to reject any free advertisement request. The use of full names is not permitted. You must be 18 years of age or older to place a free person to person advertisement.

Pets 820

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Real Estate Wanted 851

LTB a house for a family of four. Are you selling a house or know someone who is? We are a family with two children, looking to buy a house in the Ramstein & Kaiserslautern community. We got left behind in Heidelberg after the closures and are really tired of the commute and drive just to shop at the commissary. We would prefer a free-standing house with at least 4 bedrooms and a fair sized yard. Any good referral can be made worth your while, don't hesitate to contact us and give us a lead. Our e-mail is: danamuresan10 yahoo.com dean.c.lane.civ mail.mil

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Autos for Sale - Korea 148

BMW, 528i, 2011 \$35000.00 Alpine white with no dings or scratches. Car is equipped with Premium and Sport Package navigation, backup camera and parking sensors, etc. Installed Huperoptik tint all around to include front windshield and sunroof. (\$1500). Blue book prices are: Excellent \$37,059, Very Good \$36,259, Good \$35,359, Fair \$33,059, 0 1 0 - 6 7 7 9 - 4 4 4 8 jaehee.yu@gmail.com

Autos for Sale - Korea 148

FIAT 500 GUCCI, 2012 \$16900.00 Engine: 1.4-liter 14 Horsepower/Torque: 101 hp @ 6,500 rpm/98 lb.-ft. 4,000 rpm Wheelbase: 90.6 in. Length/Width/Height: 139.6 x 64.1 x 59.8 in. Tires: P185/55R15 Cargo volume: 9.5 cu. ft. Fuel economy: 27 mpg city/34 mpg highway/37.4 mpg test Curb weight: 2,434 lbs. [Top 5 Reasons to buy this car] 1. You may want to drive a cousin to a Ferrari 2. Feel Italian like all the Romans who driven them 3. Economy 4. Ease of parking and handling 5. Fun to drive 0 1 0 5 3 0 4 8 2 3 8 minam66@gmail.com

Autos for Sale - Korea 148

Kia, Carnival Park, 2001 \$3700.00 Diesel 9 Pax van, legal for bus lane on express way. Keyless entry remote start, reverse sensor. Very good condition, great for family trips in Korea. Navigation system included. Available immediately. 0 0 8 5 6 9 - 2 8 7 0 joekpon@hotmail.com

Nissan, Silvia, 2002 \$10000.00 Spec R SR20DET 101,xxx KM 6 Speed manual transmission Right hand drive and owner Japan import 010 4601 0660

Autos for Sale - Korea 148

Lexus, ES300, 2003 \$6500.00 2003 LEXUS ES300 US Spec. Originally from California (no underbody rust) 170K highway miles Excellent running and clean condition Cannot hear any rattling noise All major maintenance is done already All of maintenance work history on file This car can run up to 300K miles easily Leaving country soon \$ 6 5 0 0 O B O 010-9924-8332 010-9924-8332

Autos for Sale - Korea 148

Lexus, ES300, 2003 \$6500.00 2003 LEXUS ES300 US Spec. Originally from California (no underbody rust) 170K highway miles Excellent running and clean condition Cannot hear any rattling noise All major maintenance is done already All of maintenance work history on file This car can run up to 300K miles easily Leaving country soon \$ 6 5 0 0 O B O 010-9924-8332 010-9924-8332

Autos for Sale - Korea 148

Toyota, Prius V, 2012 \$20000.00 Selling a 2012 Toyota Prius V. Car has approximately 14,000 miles on it. It is the size of a small SUV and fits 3 full size car seats in the rear seat even when a 6'11" guy is driving. Cargo area is large enough to fit a double side-by-side stroller. Kelly Blue book on the car in good condition is \$22,000. We are asking \$20,000 obo. The car costs approximately \$35 to fill up with gas and gets 400 miles to a tank. Its the perfect commuter or family car. sarah.s.evans@gmail.com

Autos for Sale - Korea 148

Toyota, Prius V three, 2012 \$20000.00 Selling a 2012 Toyota Prius V three. White with grey cloth interior, navigation, Bluetooth, xenon lights, audio streaming, USB port, backup camera, Entune app suite that connects your smart phone to the audio system, keyless entry, push-button start, Car has approximately 14,000 miles on it. It is the size of a small SUV and fits 3 full size car seats. sarah.s.evans@gmail.com

SPORTS BRIEFS

Rules could keep top US skiers out of races

The Associated Press

BORMIO, Italy — Picture this for the Sochi Olympics: Bode Miller not allowed to defend his super-combined title, Lindsey Vonn limited to two events and other medal contenders held out of some of their favorite disciplines.

It's a scenario that top skiers are calling "absurd" but that could become a reality — at least, that's how the big Alpine nations are interpreting the International Ski Federation's (FIS) complex new Olympic qualifying rules.

"We're waiting for FIS to clarify what it means and how it works," U.S. Ski Team men's head coach Sasha Rearick told The Associated Press on Monday — three weeks before he has to name his team for Sochi. "It's critical that we have a fair solution and the top athletes can compete in the events they deserve to."

At issue are rules put in place last year to help smaller nations gain Olympic qualifying spots. In the fine print, the rules require skiers to finish a certain number of races in a discipline over last season and this season — up to Jan. 19 — to qualify for that event in Sochi. It's five races for the technical events of slalom and giant slalom, and three for the speed events of downhill, super-G and super-combined.

For the men's super-combined, those rules mean Miller, American world champion Ted Ligety and Austrian standout Benjamin Raich could all miss out. And the injured Vonn — if she decides to compete in Sochi — would be limited to just two events — downhill and super-G.

FIS men's World Cup director



MARCO TROVATI/AP

American world champion Ted Ligety could be among the US skiers left out in the cold by new Olympic qualifying rules set by the International Ski Federation.

Gunter Hujara is promising a last-minute change.

"We will handle it at the end," he announced at a team captain's meeting Sunday. "There may be some adaptations done in the next few days. That's the only answer I can give for now."

With his gold-medal performance at the worlds as his only result, Ligety still needs two super-combined finishes to qualify. He could get one in the super-combi in Wengen, Switzerland, on Jan. 17, but would need one more.

"If they don't let the best guys race then it would be absurd," Ligety said. "It wouldn't be an event. ... They'll get it figured out. They'll make it so the best guys can race. It wouldn't make any sense otherwise."

Ligety, Miller, Vonn and the Austrians would still qualify for the Olympics in other events.

Another issue is the number of racers that the big teams can bring to Sochi. Usually, for teams like Austria, Switzerland and the U.S. it's 22. But for now, Austria and Switzerland are at 20 and the U.S. is only at 19.

But the numbers will go up once the small nations give back the spots they don't need — or can't fill.

Former Yankee, Marine pilot Coleman dies at 89

SAN DIEGO — Hall of Fame broadcaster Jerry Coleman, a former second baseman for the New York Yankees who interrupted his pro career to fly as a Marine Corps pilot in World War II and Korea, died Sunday, San Diego Padres officials said. He was 89.

Coleman spent more than four

decades with the Padres as a broadcaster. He managed the team in 1980.

Padres president Mike Dee said Coleman died at a hospital Sunday afternoon.

"It's a sad day," Padres manager Bud Black said. "We're losing a San Diego icon. He's going to be missed."

The Padres planned to keep Coleman's statue at Petco Park open until 11:30 p.m. Sunday so fans could pay tribute.

While recounting his military career in an interview days before the statue was unveiled in September 2012, Coleman said: "Your country is bigger than baseball."

Coleman spent some seven decades in pro baseball, a career that included four World Series titles with the Yankees and was interrupted by his service in World War II and the Korean War.

He flew 120 missions combined in the two wars. Coleman was awarded two Distinguished Flying Crosses, 13 Air Medals and three Navy Citations.

Around Petco Park and on Padres radio broadcasts, Coleman was known as "The Colonel," having retired from the Marines with the rank of lieutenant colonel. He was the only major leaguer to see combat in two wars.

"He was a wonderful human being and a great guy," Black said. "He was one of a kind. He sort of blazed his own path from San Francisco and ended up as a war hero and a major league ballplayer and doing so many things in our game. As much as he's remembered for all he accomplished as a baseball man, he was more proud of his military service."

UCLA QB Hundley to return for junior season

LOS ANGELES — UCLA quarterback Brett Hundley has decided to return to the Bruins for his junior season.

Hundley has started for the last two seasons under coach Jim Mora, winning 19 games and establishing himself as one of the nation's top young quarterbacks with his arm and his legs.

In other college football news:

■ Florida linebacker Ronald Powell is leaving school early and entering the NFL draft.

Powell, a 6-foot-4, 244-pound junior from Moreno Valley, Calif., was the nation's top high school recruit in 2010. He missed the entire 2012 season after twice tearing the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee.

Source: Browns won't interview OU's Stoops

CLEVELAND — A person with direct knowledge of Cleveland's coaching search has told The Associated Press that the Browns will not interview Oklahoma's Bob Stoops.

Stoops did nothing to dispel a report last week that said he had the "inside track" for the job, but the person who spoke to the AP on Monday said the team is not pursuing him. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the search.

Stoops said "you never know" last week when asked about the possibility of one day coaching in the NFL.

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FOOTBALL
National Football League
NFL — Fined Seattle RB Marshawn Lynch \$50,000 for violating the league's media policy.
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
DALLAS STARS — Reassigned F Chris Mueller to Texas (AHL).
LOS ANGELES KINGS — Assigned G Martin Jones to Manchester (AHL).
NEW YORK RANGERS — Assigned D Conor Allen to Hartford (AHL).
American Hockey League
SPRINGFIELD FALCONS — Returned G Mike Clemente to Evansville (ECHL). Re-assigned D Thomas Larkin to Evansville.
COLLEGE
CHOWAN — Named Chris Whalley men's soccer coach.
TEXAS — Named Charlie Strong football coach.

Golf

Tournament of Champions
Sunday
At Kapalua Resort, The Plantation Course
Kapalua, Hawaii
Purse: \$5.7 million
Yardage: 7,452; Par 73
Third Round

Webb Simpson	66-71-68—205	-14
Jordan Spieth	66-70-69—205	-14
Dustin Johnson	70-66-69—205	-14
Zach Johnson	67-66-74—207	-12
Gary Woodland	71-70-67—208	-11
Jason Dufner	67-72-69—208	-11
Brandt Snedeker	70-69-69—208	-11
Kevin Streelman	67-71-70—208	-11
Patrick Reed	70-72-67—209	-10
Chris Kirk	66-75-68—209	-10
Adam Scott	70-70-69—209	-10
Woody Austin	72-70-68—210	-9
Ken Duke	70-69-71—210	-9
Ryan Moore	67-71-72—210	-9
Michael Thompson	66-71-73—210	-9
Brian Gay	70-76-65—211	-8
Harris English	70-71-70—211	-8
Matt Kuchar	72-72-68—212	-7
Scott Brown	71-73-68—212	-7
Billy Horschel	72-72-68—212	-7
Jimmy Walker	73-73-67—213	-6
Bill Haas	71-73-69—213	-6
Martin Laird	71-72-70—213	-6
Sang-Moon Bae	69-73-71—213	-6
Russell Henley	72-72-70—214	-5
Jonas Blixt	76-70-69—215	-4
Boo Weekley	71-74-70—215	-4
John Merrick	71-76-71—218	-1

Tennis

Chennai Open
Sunday
At SDAT Tennis Stadium
Chennai, India
Purse: \$459,140 (WT250)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles
Championship
Stanislav Wawrinka (1), Switzerland, def. Edouard Roger-Vasselin (7), France, 7-5, 6-2.
Brisbane International
Sunday
At Queensland Tennis Centre
Brisbane, Australia
Purse: Men, \$511,825 (WT250); Women, \$1 million (Premier)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles
Men
Championship
Lleyton Hewitt, Australia, def. Roger Federer (1), Switzerland, 6-1, 4-6, 6-3.
Apia International
Sunday
At Olympic Park Tennis Centre
Sydney, Australia
Purse: Men, \$511,825 (WT250); Women, \$710,000 (Premier)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles
Women
First Round
Madison Keys, United States, def. Simona Halep (7), Romania, 6-1, 6-4.
Sara Errani (3), Italy, def. Roberta Vinci, Italy, 6-4, 6-2.
Ajla Tomljanovic, Croatia, def. Daniela Hantuchova, Slovakia, 6-4, 7-5.

College basketball

AP Men's Top 25 fared
Sunday
1. Arizona (15-0) did not play. Next: at UCLA, Thursday.
2. Syracuse (14-0) did not play. Next: at Virginia Tech, Tuesday.
3. Ohio State (15-0) did not play. Next: at No. 5 Michigan State, Tuesday.
4. Wisconsin (15-0) beat No. 22 Iowa 75-71. Next: vs. Illinois, Wednesday.
5. Michigan State (13-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 3 Ohio State, Tuesday.
6. Oklahoma State (12-2) did not play. Next: vs. Texas, Wednesday.
7. Duke (11-3) did not play. Next: vs. Georgia Tech, Tuesday.
8. Wichita State (15-0) beat Northern Iowa 67-53. Next: vs. Illinois State, Wednesday.
9. Baylor (12-1) did not play. Next: at No. 13 Iowa State, Tuesday.
10. Oregon (13-1) lost to No. 20 Colorado 100-91. Next: vs. California, Thursday.
11. Villanova (13-1) beat Providence 91-61. Next: at Seton Hall, Wednesday.
12. Florida (11-2) did not play. Next: vs. South Carolina, Wednesday.
13. Iowa State (13-0) did not play. Next: vs. No. 9 Baylor, Tuesday.
14. Louisville (13-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 18 Memphis, Thursday.
15. Kentucky (10-3) did not play. Next: vs. Mississippi State, Wednesday.
16. Kansas (9-4) lost to No. 21 San Diego State 61-57. Next: at Oklahoma, Wednesday.
17. UConn (11-3) did not play. Next: vs. Harvard, Wednesday.
18. Memphis (10-3) did not play. Next: at No. 14 Louisville, Thursday.
19. North Carolina (10-4) lost to Wake Forest 73-67. Next: vs. Miami, Wednesday.
20. Colorado (13-2) beat No. 10 Oregon 100-91. Next: at Washington State, Wednesday.
21. San Diego State (12-1) beat No. 16 Kansas 61-57. Next: vs. Boise State, Wednesday.
22. Iowa (12-3) lost to No. 4 Wisconsin 75-71. Next: vs. Northwestern, Thursday.
23. UMass (12-1) did not play. Next: vs. Saint Joseph's, Wednesday.
24. Gonzaga (14-2) did not play. Next: at Portland, Thursday.
25. Missouri (12-1) did not play. Next: vs. Georgia, Wednesday.

Sunday's men's scores
EAST
American U. 69, Holy Cross 54
Army 91, Loyola (Md.) 82
Boston U. 67, Lehigh 66
Bucknell 68, Colgate 57
Dowling 76, Merrimack 72
Fairleigh Dickinson 86, Hofstra 67
Keene St. 104, Castleton St. 84
Maine 82, Binghamton 66
Mass.-Lowell 59, UMBC 54
Navy 79, Lafayette 71
Villanova 91, Providence 61
SOUTH
Florida Gulf Coast 68, Stetson 55
GRU Augusta 76, UNC Pembroke 72
Marshall 77, Presbyterian 49
Murray St. 91, UT-Martin 77
Point Park 78, Brescia 66
Wake Forest 73, North Carolina 67
MIDWEST
Illinois St. 66, S. Illinois 48
Loyola of Chicago 89, Missouri St. 57
Michigan 74, Northwestern 51
Minnesota 82, Purdue 79
San Diego St. 61, Kansas 57
Wichita St. 67, N. Iowa 53
Wis.-Parkside 73, Truman St. 71
Wisconsin 75, Iowa 71
FAR WEST
Arizona St. 66, Washington St. 47
Colorado 100, Oregon 91
UCLA 107, Southern Cal 73

AP Women's Top 25 fared
Sunday
1. UConn (15-0) did not play. Next: vs. Houston, Tuesday.
2. Notre Dame (13-0) beat Clemson 71-51. Next: vs. Boston College, Thursday.
3. Duke (14-1) beat Georgia Tech 64-47. Next: at No. 20 Syracuse, Thursday.
4. Stanford (13-1) beat Oregon State 89-67. Next: at Utah, Friday.
5. Tennessee (12-2) beat No. 19 Georgia 85-70. Next: vs. Mississippi, Thursday.
6. Kentucky (13-2) lost to Florida 83-73. Next: at No. 13 South Carolina, Thursday.
7. Louisville (15-1) did not play. Next: at South Florida, Sunday.
8. Maryland (13-1) beat No. 10 North Carolina 79-70. Next: vs. Wake Forest, Thursday.
9. Baylor (12-1) beat Kansas 75-55. Next: at West Virginia, Wednesday.
10. North Carolina (12-3) lost to No. 8 Maryland 79-70. Next: vs. N.C. State, Thursday.
11. Oklahoma State (12-1) did not play. Next: at Kansas State, Wednesday.
12. Colorado (11-2) beat UCLA 61-59. Next: vs. No. 23 California, Friday.
13. South Carolina (14-1) beat Vanderbilt 76-66. Next: vs. No. 6 Kentucky, Thursday.
14. Iowa State (13-0) beat No. 25 Oklahoma 82-75, OT. Next: vs. Texas Tech, Wednesday.
15. Penn State (10-3) beat No. 22 Iowa 87-71. Next: at Illinois, Thursday.
16. LSU (12-2) beat Tulane 63-35. Next: vs. Texas A&M, Thursday.
17. Purdue (9-3) did not play. Next: vs. Indiana, Monday.
18. Nebraska (11-2) did not play. Next: at Michigan State, Thursday.
19. Georgia (12-3) lost to No. 5 Tennessee 85-70. Next: at Missouri, Thursday.
20. Syracuse (11-3) lost to N.C. State 67-61. Next: vs. No. 3 Duke, Thursday.
21. Florida State (13-1) did not play. Next: at Miami, Thursday.
22. Iowa (12-4) lost to No. 15 Penn State 87-71. Next: vs. Minnesota, Wednesday.
23. California (10-3) beat Oregon 101-98, OT. Next: at No. 12 Colorado, Friday.
24. Arizona State (12-2) beat Washington 78-60. Next: vs. Southern Cal, Friday.
25. Oklahoma (10-5) lost to No. 14 Iowa State 82-75, OT. Next: at Texas, Wednesday.

Skiing

Women's World Cup slalom
Sunday
At Bormio, Italy
1. Mikaela Shiffrin, United States, 2:00.41 (57.72-1:02.69).
2. Maria Pietilae-Holmner, Sweden, 2:00.54 (57.75-1:02.79).
3. Nastasia Noens, France, 2:01.03 (58.85-1:02.18).
4. Bernadette Schild, Austria, 2:01.15 (58.52-1:02.63).
5. Marie-Michele Gagnon, Canada, 2:01.52 (59.00-1:02.52).
6. Marlies Schild, Austria, 2:01.55 (58.90-1:02.65).
7. Michaela Kirchgasser, Austria, 2:01.72 (59.53-1:02.19).
8. Anna Swenn-Larsson, Sweden, 2:01.75 (59.03-1:02.72).
9. Barbara Wirth, Germany, 2:01.76 (59.41-1:02.35).
10. Frida Hansdotter, Sweden, 2:01.85 (58.45-1:03.40).

Also
40. Resi Stiegler, United States, 1:00.69, did not qualify for second run.
World Cup Slalom Standings (After four of eight races)
1. Mikaela Shiffrin, U.S., 302 points.
2. Marlies Schild, Austria, 240.
3. Marie-Michele Gagnon, Canada, 180.
4. Frida Hansdotter, Sweden, 178.
5. Maria Hoefl-Riesch, Germany, 140.
Also
29. Resi Steigler, United States, 25.
Overall World Cup Standings (After 16 events)
1. Maria Hoefl-Riesch, Germany, 611 points.
2. Tina Weirather, Liechtenstein, 609.
3. Anna Fenninger, Austria, 597.
4. Lara Gut, Switzerland, 568.
5. Mikaela Shiffrin, United States, 514.
Also
32. Julia Mancuso, United States, 91.

Bobsled

World Cup
Sunday
At Winterberg, Germany
Four-Man
1. Germany (Maximilian Arndt, Marko Huebenbecker, Alexander Roediger, Martin Putze), 1:50.09 (55.02-55.07).
2. Germany (Francesco Friedrich, Janis Baecker, Gregor Bermbach, Thorsten Margis), 1:50.32 (55.05-55.27).
3. Germany (Thomas Florschuetz, Joshua Bluhm, Kevin Kuske, Christian Poser), 1:50.49 (55.21-55.28).
4. Russia (Alexander Zubkov, Alexey Negodaylo, Dmitry Trunenkov, Aleksei Pushkarev), 1:50.52 (55.18-55.34).
5. Canada (Chris Spring, Jesse Lumsden, Cody Sorensen, Ben Coakwell), 1:50.83 (55.32-55.51).
6. Switzerland (Beat Hefti, Alex Baumann, Juerg Egger, Thomas Amrhein), 1:51.02 (55.47-55.55).
7. United States (Steven Holcomb, Curtis Tomasevich, Steven Langton, Christopher Fogt), 1:51.03 (55.39-57.64).
8. Russia (Nikita Zakharov, Ilvir Huzin, Petr Moiseev, Nikolay Khrenkov), 1:51.12 (55.62-55.50).
9. Canada (Lyndon Rush, Neville Wright, David Bissett, Lascelles Brown), 1:51.17 (55.42-55.75).
10. Russia (Alexander Kasjanov, Philipp Egorov, Maxim Belugin, Maxim Mokrousov), 1:51.18 (55.46-55.72).
Also
13. United States (Cory Butner, Adam Clark, Andreas Drbal, Chris Langton), 1:51.54 (55.95-55.59).
16. United States (Nick Cunningham, Dallas Robinson, Johnny Quinn, Abraham Morlu), 1:51.67 (55.76-55.91).
World Cup Standings (After five events)
1. Maximilian Arndt, Germany, 1,038 points.
2. Alexander Zubkov, Russia, 922.
3. Steven Holcomb, United States, 911.
4. Chris Spring, Canada, 904.
5. Thomas Florschuetz, Germany, 864.
6. Alexander Kasjanov, Russia, 816.
7. Francesco Friedrich, Germany, 756.
8. Justin Kripps, Canada, 752.
9. Lyndon Rush, Canada, 686.
10. John James Jackson, Britain, 674.
Also
16. Nick Cunningham, United States, 552.
17. Cory Butner, United States, 550.
18. Codie Bascue, United States, 546.
34. Jay Noller, United States, 340.
44. Colin Coughlin, United States, 252.
56. Jake Peterson, United States, 164.
Two-Woman
1. Germany (Sandra Kiriasis and Franziska Fritz), 1:55.41 (57.83-57.58).
2. United States (Elana Meyers and Lolo Jones), 1:55.42 (57.90-57.52).
3. Germany (Anja Schneiderheinze and Stephanie Schneider), 1:55.48 (57.79-57.69).
4. United States (Jamie Greubel and Aja Evans), 1:55.52 (57.76-57.76).
5. Canada (Kaillie Humphries and Heather Moyse), 1:55.63 (57.88-57.75).
6. Belgium (Elfie Willemssen and Hanna Marien), 1:55.92 (58.08-57.84).
7. Netherlands (Esme Kamphuis and Judith Vis), 1:55.97 (58.06-57.91).
8. Switzerland (Caroline Spahni and Elisabeth Graf), 1:56.01 (58.11-57.90).
9. United States (Jasmine Fenlator and Lauryn Williams), 1:56.09 (58.03-58.06).
10. Switzerland (Fabienne Meyer and Tanja Mayer), 1:56.19 (58.12-58.07).
World Cup Standings (After five of eight events)
1. Elana Meyers, United States, 1,080.
2. Kaillie Humphries, Canada, 1,012.
3. Jamie Greubel, United States, 1,002.
4. Sandra Kiriasis, Germany, 889.
5. Cathleen Martini, Germany, 872.
6. Jazmine Fenlator, United States, 850.
7. Anja Schneiderheinze, Germany, 784.
8. Caroline Spahni, Switzerland, 784.
9. Elffe Willemssen, Belgium, 760.
10. Olga Stulneva, Russia, 752.

AP spotlight

Jan. 7
1920 — Joe Malone of Quebec scores two goals to become the NHL's career leader with 59 and leads the Bulldogs to a 4-3 victory over the Toronto Arenas.
1972 — The Los Angeles Lakers defeat the Atlanta Hawks 134-90 for their 33rd straight victory, an NBA record.
1981 — Marcel Dionne of the Los Angeles Kings scores his 1,000th point with a goal in a 5-3 triumph over the Hartford Whalers.
1987 — Gary Bossert of Niagara sets an NCAA record by hitting 12 of 14 three-point shots, including 11 straight, against Siena.
1992 — Pitchers Tom Seaver and Rollie Fingers are elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame. Seaver receives the highest percentage of votes in baseball history.
1997 — Rutgers-Camden snaps its NCAA-record 117-game losing streak with a 77-72 victory over Bloomfield College. The Division III Pioneers were winless since beating Ramapo 74-73 on Jan. 18, 1992.
2003 — Kobe Bryant makes an NBA-record 12 shots from 3-point range, including nine straight, in scoring 45 points as the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Seattle SuperSonics 119-98.
2006 — The New England Patriots set an NFL mark with 10 straight postseason victories by beating the Jacksonville Jaguars 28-3. New England's milestone surpasses the nine straight playoff victories by Green Bay in the 1960s.

College football

Bowl schedule
Saturday, Dec. 21
New Mexico Bowl
At Albuquerque
Colorado State 48, Washington State 45
Las Vegas Bowl
Southern Cal 45, Fresno State 20
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
At Boise, Idaho
San Diego State 49, Buffalo 24
New Orleans Bowl
Louisiana-Lafayette 24, Tulane 21
Monday, Dec. 23
Beef 'O' Brady's Bowl
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
East Carolina 37, Ohio 20
Tuesday, Dec. 24
Hawaii Bowl
At Honolulu
Oregon State 38, Boise State 23
Thursday, Dec. 26
Little Caesars Pizza Bowl
At Detroit
Pittsburgh 30, Bowling Green 27
Poinsettia Bowl
At San Diego
Utah State 21, Northern Illinois 14
Friday, Dec. 27
Military Bowl
At Annapolis, Md.
Marshall 31, Maryland 20
Texas Bowl
At Houston
Syracuse 21, Minnesota 17
Fight Hunger Bowl
At San Francisco
Washington 31, BYU 16
Saturday, Dec. 28
Pinstripe Bowl
At New York
Notre Dame 29, Rutgers 16
Belk Bowl
At Charlotte, N.C.
North Carolina 39, Cincinnati 17
Russell Athletic Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Louisville 36, Miami 9
Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl
At Tempe, Ariz.
Kansas State 31, Michigan 14
Monday, Dec. 30
Armed Forces Bowl
At Fort Worth, Texas
Navy 24, Middle Tennessee 6
Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
Mississippi 25, Georgia Tech 17
Alamo Bowl
At San Antonio
Oregon 30, Texas 7
Holiday Bowl
At San Diego
Texas Tech 37, Arizona State 23
Tuesday, Dec. 31
AdvoCare V100 Bowl
At Shreveport, La.
Arizona 42, Boston College 19
Sun Bowl
At El Paso, Texas
UCLA 42, Virginia Tech 12
Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
Mississippi State 44, Rice 7
Chick-fil-A Bowl
At Atlanta
Texas A&M 52, Duke 48
Wednesday, Jan. 1
Heart of Dallas Bowl
At Dallas
North Texas 36, UNLV 14
Gator Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
Nebraska 24, Georgia 19
Capital One Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
South Carolina 24, Wisconsin 24
Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
LSU 21, Iowa 14
Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
Michigan State 24, Stanford 20
Fiesta Bowl
At Glendale, Ariz.
UCF 52, Baylor 42
Thursday, Jan. 2
Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
Oklahoma 45, Alabama 31
Friday, Jan. 3
Cotton Bowl
At Arlington, Texas
Missouri 41, Oklahoma State 31
Orange Bowl
At Miami
Clemson 40, Ohio State 35
Saturday, Jan. 4
BBVA Compass Bowl
At Birmingham, Ala.
Vanderbilt 41, Houston 24
Sunday, Jan. 5
GoDaddy.com Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
Arkansas State 23, Ball State 20
Monday, Jan. 6
BCS National Championship
At Pasadena, Calif.
Florida State (13-0) vs. Auburn (12-1)
Saturday, Jan. 18
East-West Shrine Classic
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
East vs. West
NFLPA Collegiate Bowl
At Los Angeles
American vs. National
Saturday, Jan. 25
Senior Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
South vs. North

NBA



ALEX BRANDON/AP

Golden State guard Klay Thompson (11) celebrates his three-point shot with forward David Lee, left, in the second half of Sunday's game against the Wizards at MCI Center in Washington. Thompson had 26 points and Lee added 21 as the Warriors won 112-96.

Roundup

Warriors top Wiz, win ninth straight

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Klay Thompson scored 26 points and the Golden State Warriors have their longest in-season winning streak since 1975 after Sunday night's 112-96 win over the Washington Wizards.

The Warriors won their ninth in a row by turning the third quarter into a laughter, opening the period with a 30-5 run.

Curry and Thompson topped John Wall and Bradley Beal in the battle of the two highest-scoring backcourts in the NBA. Curry scored 14 points on 5-for-17 shooting, but the league's most turn-over-prone player had 10 assists and only two giveaways.

Thompson was 9-for-14 from the field, including 6-for-9 from three-point range.

Pacers 82, Cavaliers 78: Paul George scored 16 points, Roy Hibbert made a putback and two free throws in the final 1:09 and visiting Indiana held off Cleveland's late rally for a win over the short-handed Cavaliers.

Walters scored 21 for the Cavaliers, who played without All-Star point guard Kyrie Irving.

Thunder 119, Celtics 96: Reggie Jackson scored a career-high 27 points, Kevin Durant added 21 points, seven rebounds and eight assists, and Oklahoma City halted their home-court swoon with a win over visiting Boston.

Serge Ibaka added 17 points and 11 rebounds for Oklahoma City, which had lost three of its previous four home games after starting the season 13-0 at Chesa-

apeake Energy Arena. The Thunder (27-7) have the best record in the Western Conference.

Heat 102, Raptors 97: LeBron James scored 30 points, Michael Beasley came off the bench to add 17 and host Miami held on down the stretch to beat Toronto.

Dwyane Wade scored 14 points and Chris Bosh grabbed 11 rebounds for the Heat, who successfully overcame a deficit entering the fourth quarter for the seventh time in 13 tries.

Knicks 92, Mavericks 80: Carmelo Anthony scored 15 of his 19 points in the first quarter to jump-start New York's victory over host Dallas.

New York led by as many as 19 points and held off a second-half rally that pulled the Mavericks within six. The Knicks went 2-1 on a four-day trip through Texas.

Nuggets 137, Lakers 115: Ty Lawson had 20 points and 12 assists, Timofey Mozgov added 20 points and seven rebounds, and visiting Denver beat slumping Los Angeles for their second straight win after an eight-game skid.

Denver emphatically earned a win for coach Brian Shaw in his first game back at Staples Center to face the Lakers as a head coach.

Grizzlies 112, Pistons 84: Jon Leuer matched a career-high with 23 points and Zach Randolph had 16 points and 16 rebounds as visiting Memphis Grizzlies dominated the second half to beat Detroit.

Memphis had six players in double figures, including 15 from former Piston Tayshaun Prince.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference					
Atlantic Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Toronto	16	16	.500	—	
Boston	13	21	.382	4	
Brooklyn	12	21	.364	4½	
Philadelphia	12	21	.364	4½	
New York	11	22	.333	5½	
Southeast Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Miami	26	8	.765	—	
Atlanta	18	16	.529	8	
Washington	14	17	.452	10½	
Charlotte	15	20	.429	11½	
Orlando	10	23	.303	15½	
Central Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Indiana	27	6	.818	—	
Chicago	14	18	.438	12½	
Detroit	14	20	.412	13½	
Cleveland	11	23	.324	16½	
Milwaukee	7	26	.212	20	
Western Conference					
Southwest Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
San Antonio	26	8	.765	—	
Houston	22	13	.629	4½	
Dallas	19	15	.559	7	
New Orleans	15	17	.469	10	
Memphis	15	18	.455	10½	
Northwest Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Oklahoma City	27	7	.794	—	
Portland	26	8	.765	1	
Denver	16	17	.485	10½	
Minnesota	16	17	.485	10½	
Utah	11	25	.306	17	
Pacific Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Golden State	23	13	.639	—	
L.A. Clippers	23	13	.639	—	
Phoenix	20	12	.625	1	
L.A. Lakers	14	20	.412	8	
Sacramento	10	22	.313	11	
Saturday's games					
Miami 110, Orlando 94					
Indiana 99, New Orleans 82					
Brooklyn 89, Cleveland 82					
Chicago 91, Atlanta 84					
Oklahoma City 115, Minnesota 111					
San Antonio 116, L.A. Clippers 92					
Phoenix 116, Milwaukee 100					
Philadelphia 101, Portland 99					
Charlotte 113, Sacramento 103					
Sunday's games					
Memphis 112, Detroit 84					
Golden State 112, Washington 96					
Indiana 82, Cleveland 78					
Miami 102, Toronto 97					
Oklahoma City 119, Boston 96					
New York 92, Dallas 80					
Denver 137, L.A. Lakers 115					
Monday's games					
Minnesota at Philadelphia					
Atlanta at Brooklyn					
Orlando at L.A. Clippers					
Tuesday's games					
Toronto at Indiana					
Philadelphia at Cleveland					
Washington at Charlotte					
New Orleans at Miami					
Detroit at New York					
Phoenix at Chicago					
Golden State at Milwaukee					
San Antonio at Memphis					
L.A. Lakers at Dallas					
Boston at Denver					
Oklahoma City at Utah					
Portland at Sacramento					

Sunday					
Nuggets 137, Lakers 115					
DENVER — Chandler 6-10 2-2 17, Faried 7-13 3-4 17, Hickson 2-5 2-4 6, Lawson 7-18 4-4 20, Foye 6-10 0-0 14, Arthur 2-7 0-0 4, Mozgov 8-10 4-5 20, Fournier 5-10 0-0 12, Robinson 7-11 4-5 21, Q.Miller 1-2 0-0 2, Hamilton 0-1 0-0 0, Randolph 2-2 0-0 4. Totals 53-99 19-24 137.					
L.A. LAKERS — Johnson 1-5 0-0 2, Gasol 10-22 5-6 25, Sacre 6-6 3-5 15, Marshall 3-10 2-2 9, Meeks 8-15 7-7 23, Williams 2-7 0-2 5, Kelly 2-5 2-3 6, Young 8-15 4-4 21, Hill 2-4 5-7 9. Totals 42-89 28-36 115.					
Denver	26	34	33	44—137	
L.A. Lakers	29	32	22	32—115	
Three-Point Goals—Denver 12-29 (Robinson 3-5, Chandler 3-6, Fournier 2-3, Foye 2-5, Lawson 2-7, Hamilton 0-1, Mozgov 0-1, Hickson 0-1), L.A. Lakers 3-21 (Young 1-3, Marshall 1-5, Williams 1-6, Kelly 0-1, Meeks 0-3, Johnson 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Denver 63 (Faried 13), L.A. Lakers 43 (Gasol 10). Assists—Denver 32 (Lawson 12), L.A. Lakers 26 (Marshall 17). Total Fouls—Denver 25, L.A. Lakers 18. Technicals—Robinson. A—18,997 (18,997).					
Knicks 92, Mavericks 80					
NEW YORK — Anthony 6-16 6-8 19, Bargnani 6-12 0-0 13, Chandler 0-1 0-0 0, Udrih 2-6 0-0 4, Shumpert 3-5 2-2 9, Martin 7-8 0-0 14, Smith 3-8 0-0 7, Murry 2-5 1-2 5, Aldrich 0-0 0-0 0, Stoudemire 4-9 3-3 11, Hardaway Jr. 4-6 1-1 10, Tyler 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 37-76 13-16 92.					
DALLAS — Marion 1-6 0-0 2, Nowitzki 6-11 5-9 18, Blair 5-6 1-1 11, Calderon 5-13 0-0 12, Ellis 6-13 0-0 13, Wright 3-5 1-2 7, Carter 4-13 3-6 13, Crowder 0-3 0-0 0, Larkin 2-5 0-0 4, Ellington 0-1 0-0 0, Mekel 0-2 0-0 0, James 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 32-78 10-18 80.					
New York	29	23	15	25—92	
Dallas	17	18	22	23—80	
Three-Point Goals—New York 5-13 (Bargnani 1-1, Hardaway Jr. 1-2, Anthony 1-3, Smith 1-3, Shumpert 1-3, Udrih 0-1), Dallas 6-26 (Carter 2-7, Calderon 2-8, Nowitzki 1-2, Ellis 1-4, Marion 0-1, Mekel 0-1, Crowder 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—New York 54 (Smith, Anthony, Stoudemire 7), Dallas 42 (Nowitzki 9). Assists—New York 20 (Udrih 8), Dallas 13 (Calderon 6). Total Fouls—New York 18, Dallas 17. A—19,892 (19,200).					

Thunder 119, Celtics 96					
BOSTON — Green 8-15 0-0 19, Bass 1-5 2-2 4, Sullinger 3-11 3-6 9, Crawford 6-14 2-4 17, Bradley 7-16 3-4 19, Humphries 5-8 4-4 14, Wallace 0-2 1-4 1, Olynyk 3-6 0-0 7, Bogans 1-1 0-0 3, Pressey 1-2 0-0 3, Faverani 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 35-80 15-24 96.					
OKLAHOMA CITY — Durant 6-13 9-10 21, Ibaka 8-13 1-2 17, Perkins 5-9 2-2 12, Jackson 9-12 6-9 27, Sefolosha 1-8 0-0 3, Collison 3-4 2-4 8, Lamb 5-10 0-0 13, Jones 2-5 2-2 6, Fisher 2-4 2-2 8, Adams 0-2 0-0 0, Roberson 1-2 0-0 2, Thabeet 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 43-83 24-31 119.					
Boston	26	30	22	18—96	
Oklahoma City	34	32	26	27—119	
Three-Point Goals—Boston 11-23 (Green 3-5, Crawford 3-7, Bradley 2-4, Pressey 1-1, Bogans 1-1, Olynyk 1-2, Sullinger 0-1, Wallace 0-2), Oklahoma City 9-19 (Jackson 3-3, Lamb 3-5, Fisher 2-3, Sefolosha 1-5, Jones 0-1, Durant 0-1, Ibaka 0-1). Fouled Out—Sullinger. Rebounds—Boston 51 (Sullinger, Olynyk 8), Oklahoma City 50 (Ibaka 11). Assists—Boston 23 (Crawford 7), Oklahoma City 28 (Durant 8). Total Fouls—Boston 26, Oklahoma City 16. Technicals—Durant, Oklahoma City defensive three second. A—18,203 (18,203).					

Heat 102, Raptors 97					
TORONTO — Ross 3-8 0-0 8, Johnson 7-13 3-5 17, Valenciennes 7-8 3-4 17, DeRozan 11-19 3-4 26, Lowry 5-14 2-4 14, Salmons 1-2 1-2 4, Patterson 5-13 0-2 11, Fields 0-0 0-0 0, Vasquez 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 39-77 12-21 97.					
MIAMI — James 12-18 6-7 30, Lewis 1-2 0-0 2, Bosh 2-9 4-4 8, Chalmers 2-4 0-0 5, Wade 5-13 4-4 14, Andersen 2-2 0-0 4, Allen 1-7 4-4 6, Haslem 3-7 0-1 6, Beasley 7-12 3-5 17, Cole 2-5 2-2 7, Mason Jr. 1-2 0-0 3. Totals 38-81 23-27 102.					
Toronto	29	22	33	13—97	
Miami	29	23	27	23—102	
Three-Point Goals—Toronto 7-22 (Ross 2-6, Lowry 2-8, Patterson 1-1, Salmons 1-2, DeRozan 1-4, Johnson 0-1), Miami 3-11 (Chalmers 1-1, Cole 1-1, Mason Jr. 1-2, Lewis 0-1, Bosh 0-2, Allen 0-4). Fouled Out—Ross, Andersen. Rebounds—Toronto 46 (Johnson 8), Miami 48 (Bosh 11). Assists—Toronto 24 (Lowry 9), Miami 17 (James 5). Total Fouls—Toronto 23, Miami 24. A—20,020 (19,600).					

Warriors 112, Wizards 96					
GOLDEN STATE — Iguodala 3-5 3-4 9, Lee 10-16 1-2 21, Bogut 7-9 1-2 15, Curry 5-17 3-3 14, Thompson 9-14 2-2 26, Speights 2-6 3-3 7, Barnes 4-6 4-4 13, Green 1-4 0-0 3, Douglas 1-4 0-0 2, Bazemore 1-4 0-0 2, Kuzmic 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 43-85 17-20 112.					
WASHINGTON — Ariza 1-7 2-2 4, Booker 4-6 0-0 8, Gortat 5-9 0-0 10, Wall 4-11 4-4 14, Beal 4-15 0-0 9, Webster 4-10 2-2 11, Nene 6-9 2-2 14, Temple 2-5 2-2 7, Singleton 2-3 2-2 7, Porter Jr. 1-4 2-2 4, Vesely 4-7 0-0 8. Totals 37-86 16-16 96.					
Golden State	28	30	34	20—112	
Washington	36	22	15	23—96	
Three-Point Goals—Golden State 9-22 (Thompson 6-9, Barnes 1-1, Green 1-2, Curry 1-5, Bazemore 0-2, Douglas 0-3), Washington 6-20 (Wall 2-3, Singleton 1-1, Beal 1-2, Temple 1-3, Webster 1-5, Porter Jr. 0-1, Ariza 0-5). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Golden State 52 (Lee, Bogut 11), Washington 42 (Booker, Vesely, Gortat 6). Assists—Golden State 24 (Curry 10), Washington 23 (Wall 10). Total Fouls—Golden State 15, Washington 17. Technicals—Booker. A—17,390 (20,308).					

Pacers 82, Cavaliers 78					
INDIANA — George 4-10 6-6 16, West 4-13 3-4 11, Hibbert 5-12 5-8 15, G.Hill 3-5 0-0 8, Stephenson 4-8 0-0 10, Granger 4-12 0-0 10, Scola 3-8 0-0 6, Watson 0-6 4-4 4, Mahinmi 1-3 0-0 2. Totals 28-77 18-22 82.					
CLEVELAND — Clark 0-6 2-2 2, Thompson 4-10 5-5 13, Varejao 3-9 1-1 7, Dellavedova 3-10 3-3 11, Miles 8-13 3-5 21, Waiters 6-17 0-0 14, Gee 0-5 0-0 0, Zeller 1-5 2-2 4, Bennett 2-4 2-2 6. Totals 27-79 18-20 78.					
Indiana	22	22	23	15—82	
Cleveland	18	17	23	20—78	
Three-Point Goals—Indiana 8-24 (G.Hill 2-4, Stephenson 2-4, George 2-6, Granger 2-7, Watson 0-3), Cleveland 6-20 (Miles 2-5, Dellavedova 2-5, Waiters 2-6, Bennett 0-1, Clark 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Indiana 54 (Scola 8), Cleveland 53 (Varejao 13). Assists—Indiana 17 (George 6), Cleveland 14 (Waiters 5). Total Fouls—Indiana 19, Cleveland 25. Technicals—George, Cleveland defensive three second 2. A—17,502 (20,562).					

Grizzlies 112, Pistons 84					
MEMPHIS — Prince 6-11 2-2 15, Randolph 8-18 0-1 16, Koufos 3-10 2-2 8, Conley 6-14 0-0 15, Miller 1-3 4-4 6, Davis 7-11 3-5 17, Leuer 8-13 5-6 23, Bayless 3-7 2-2 10, Calathes 1-3 0-0 2, Johnson 0-2 0-0 0, Curry 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 43-92 18-22 112.					
DETROIT — Smith 6-17 1-2 13, Monroe 8-17 3-5 19, Drummond 6-10 3-8 15, Jennings 2-14 0-0 4, Caldwell-Pope 6-8 0-0 14, Billups 1-2 0-0 2, Singler 3-2 3-4 7, Bynum 3-11 0-0 7, Jerebko 1-2 1-1 3, Harrellson 0-1 0-0 0, Datome 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 35-86 10-20 84.					
Memphis	28	23	28	33—112	
Detroit	27	29	11	17—84	
Three-Point Goals—Memphis 8-15 (Conley 3-6, Leuer 2-2, Bayless 2-3, Prince 1-1, Calathes 0-1, Miller 0-2), Detroit 4-17 (Caldwell-Pope 2-2, Singler 1-1, Bynum 1-4, Billups 0-1, Harrellson 0-1, Smith 0-2, Jennings 0-6). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Memphis 64 (Randolph 16), Detroit 50 (Drummond 14). Assists—Memphis 31 (Conley 6), Detroit 23 (Jennings 11). Total Fouls—Memphis 15, Detroit 20. Technicals—Davis, Memphis defensive three second, Drummond, Jennings, Detroit defensive three second. A—14,134 (22,076).					

Leaders					
Scoring Through Jan. 5					
	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Durant, OKC	34	318	281	985	29.0
Love, MIN	32	282	200	845	26.4
Anthony, NYK	30	277	181	780	26.0
James, MIA	33	306	178	835	25.3
Harden, HOU	29	212	224	708	24.4
Aldridge, POR	34	333	127	793	23.3
FG Percentage					
		FG	FGA	PCT	
Jordan, LAC		137	212	.646	
Drummond, DET		199	325	.612	
Johnson, TOR		157	265	.592	
James, MIA		306	520	.588	
Howard, HOU		22	224	.386	.580
Rebounds					
	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Love, MIN	32	114	317	431	13.5
Jordan, LAC	36	146	337	483	13.4
Howard, HOU	35	123	330	453	12.9
Drummond, DET	34	181	242	423	12.4
Cousins, SAC	31	97	257	354	11.4
Assists					
		G	AST	AVG	
Paul, LAC		34	380	11.2	
Curry, GOL		33	316	9.6	
Wall, WAS		31	274	8.8	

NHL

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	42	28	12	2	58	124	89
Tampa Bay	42	25	13	4	54	119	100
Montreal	43	24	14	5	53	112	102
Detroit	43	19	14	10	48	114	121
Toronto	43	21	17	5	47	119	127
Ottawa	44	19	18	7	45	126	141
Florida	42	16	20	6	38	101	134
Buffalo	42	12	26	4	28	74	118
Metropolitan Division							
Pittsburgh	44	31	12	1	63	142	103
Philadelphia	42	21	17	4	46	111	116
Washington	42	20	16	6	46	128	128
Carolina	43	18	16	9	45	105	124
N.Y. Rangers	43	21	20	2	44	105	115
New Jersey	43	17	18	8	42	101	110
Columbus	42	18	20	4	40	113	123
N.Y. Islanders	43	14	22	7	35	112	143

Western Conference

Central Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	45	29	7	9	67	167	124
St. Louis	41	29	7	5	63	150	95
Colorado	41	26	11	4	56	120	104
Minnesota	44	22	17	5	49	106	113
Dallas	44	20	14	7	47	120	124
Winnipeg	45	19	21	5	43	123	135
Nashville	43	18	19	6	42	102	129
Pacific Division							
Anaheim	44	31	8	5	67	146	111
San Jose	43	27	10	6	60	142	111
Los Angeles	43	26	13	4	56	113	89
Vancouver	44	23	13	8	54	117	108
Phoenix	41	20	12	9	49	123	127
Calgary	41	14	21	6	34	96	128
Edmonton	45	14	26	5	33	117	156

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Saturday's games

Florida 5, Nashville 4, SO
Boston 4, Winnipeg 1
Colorado 4, San Jose 3
Buffalo 2, New Jersey 1
N.Y. Rangers 7, Toronto 1
Ottawa 4, Montreal 3, OT
Carolina 3, N.Y. Islanders 2
St. Louis 6, Columbus 2
Detroit 5, Dallas 1
Minnesota 5, Washington 3
Philadelphia 5, Phoenix 3
Los Angeles 3, Vancouver 1

Sunday's games

San Jose 3, Chicago 2, SO
Pittsburgh 6, Winnipeg 5
Carolina 2, Nashville 1
Edmonton 5, Tampa Bay 3
Anaheim 4, Vancouver 3, OT

Monday's games

Dallas at N.Y. Islanders
Columbus at N.Y. Rangers
Florida at Montreal
Calgary at Colorado

Tuesday's games

Carolina at Buffalo
N.Y. Islanders at Toronto
Philadelphia at New Jersey
San Jose at Nashville
Tampa Bay at Winnipeg
Calgary at Phoenix
St. Louis at Edmonton
Pittsburgh at Vancouver
Boston at Anaheim
Minnesota at Los Angeles

Sunday

Ducks 4, Canucks 3 (OT)

Vancouver	2	0	1	0-3
Anaheim	0	2	1	1-4
First Period —1, Vancouver, Kesler 17 (H.Sedin, D.Sedin), 9:40 (pp). 2, Vancouver, H.Sedin 10 (Garrison, D.Sedin), 11:39 (pp).				
Second Period —3, Anaheim, Koivu 8 (Silfverberg, Coglian), :24. 4, Anaheim, Beleskey 3 (Palmieri), 16:38.				
Third Period —5, Vancouver, Bieksa 2 (H.Sedin, D.Sedin), 1:06. 6, Anaheim, Bonino 12 (Winnik), 18:33.				
Overtime —7, Anaheim, Perry 23 (Getzlaf, Bonino), 4:58 (pp).				
Shots on Goal —Vancouver 12-2-5-1-20. Anaheim 5-20-20-4-49.				
Power-play opportunities —Vancouver 2 of 3; Anaheim 1 of 3.				
Goalies —Vancouver, Lack 7-3-2 (49 shots-45 saves). Anaheim, Hiller 20-4-4 (20-17).				
A—17,174 (17,174). T—2:42.				

Sharks 3, Blackhawks 2 (SO)

San Jose	1	0	1	0-3
Chicago	0	0	2	0-2
San Jose won shootout 2-0				
First Period —1, San Jose, Demers 3 (Couture, Nieto), 10:12.				
Third Period —2, Chicago, Hjalmarsson 4 (Toews, Sharp), 1:27. 3, Chicago, Rozsival 1 (Kruger), 4:01. 4, San Jose, Burns 14 (Thornton, Vlasic), 11:10.				
Shootout —San Jose 2 (Couture G, Pavelski G), Chicago 0 (Toews NG, Sharp NG).				
Shots on Goal —San Jose 9-15-15-3—42. Chicago 11-12-9-3—35.				
Power-play opportunities —San Jose 0 of 1; Chicago 0 of 0.				
Goalies —San Jose, Stalock 5-2-0 (35 shots-33 saves). Chicago, Crawford 17-6-5 (42-40).				
A—21,599 (19,717). T—2:44.				

Penguins 6, Jets 5

Winnipeg	2	3	0-5
Pittsburgh	0	4	2-6
First Period —1, Winnipeg, Trouba 4 (O.Jokinen, Pardy), 1:47. 2, Winnipeg, Scheifele 7 (Kane, Bogosian), 19:56.			
Second Period —3, Pittsburgh, Malkin 10 (J.Jokinen), 1:06. 4, Pittsburgh, Neal 15 (Letang, Crosby), 4:25 (pp). 5, Pittsburgh, Neal 16, 4:59. 6, Winnipeg, Wheeler 16 (Little), 6:02. 7, Pittsburgh, J.Jokinen 12 (Malkin, Orpik), 11:38. 8, Winnipeg, Kane 13, 17:31. 9, Winnipeg, Kane 14 (Scheifele, Frolik), 19:42.			
Third Period —10, Pittsburgh, Malkin 11 (Neal), 8:29. 11, Pittsburgh, Niskanen 5 (Maatta, Kunitz), 12:38.			
Missed Penalty Shot —Crosby, Pit, 16:52 first.			
Shots on Goal —Winnipeg 11-13-10—34. Pittsburgh 11-11-17—39.			
Power-play opportunities —Winnipeg 0 of 3; Pittsburgh 1 of 3.			
Goalies —Winnipeg, Montoya 8-4-1 (39 shots-33 saves). Pittsburgh, Fleury 24-10-1 (34-29).			
A—18,652 (18,387). T—2:27.			

Oilers 5, Lightning 3

Tampa Bay	1	2	0-3
Edmonton	3	0	2-5
First Period —1, Tampa Bay, Kucherov 6 (Carle, Gudas), 2:43 (pp). 2, Edmonton, Eberle 13 (Nugent-Hopkins, Hall), 4:18. 3, Edmonton, Eberle 14 (Gagner, Smyth), 6:09 (pp). 4, Edmonton, Gazdic 2 (J.Schultz, Jones), 15:42.			
Second Period —5, Tampa Bay, Hedman 8 (Palat, Johnson), 8:47. 6, Tampa Bay, Filppula 16 (Carle, Purcell), 14:25.			
Third Period —7, Edmonton, Gordon 7 (Hemsky, Smyth), 8:20. 8, Edmonton, Hall 16 (Ferrece, Gagner), 10:30.			
Shots on Goal —Tampa Bay 4-14-9—27. Edmonton 12-9-5—26.			
Power-play opportunities —Tampa Bay 1 of 1; Edmonton 1 of 3.			
Goalies —Tampa Bay, Bishop (1 shots-0 saves), Lindback 3-8-1 (4:18 first, 25-21). Edmonton, Bryzgalov 3-5-2 (27-24).			
A—16,839 (16,839). T—2:27.			

Hurricanes 2, Predators 1

Nashville	0	0	1-1
Carolina	1	0	1-2
First Period —1, Carolina, Semin 6 (Skinner, Ruutu), 4:28.			
Third Period —2, Nashville, Hornqvist 9 (Fisher, Weber), 6:46 (pp). 3, Carolina, Skinner 20 (Ruutu, Semin), 16:29.			
Shots on Goal —Nashville 11-12-9—32. Carolina 9-10-6—25.			
Power-play opportunities —Nashville 1 of 2; Carolina 0 of 2.			
Goalies —Nashville, Hutton 7-7-2 (25 shots-23 saves). Carolina, Khudobin 5-0-0 (32-31).			
A—13,994 (18,680). T—2:23.			

Leaders

Scoring Through Jan. 5

	GP	G	A	PTS
Sidney Crosby, Pit	44	23	40	63
Patrick Kane, Chi	45	23	31	54
Ryan Getzlaf, Anh	41	20	28	48
Joe Thornton, SJ	43	5	43	48



PAUL BEATY/AP

San Jose Sharks goalie Alex Stalock, right, makes a save against the Chicago Blackhawks' Jonathan Toews during the third period of Sunday's game in Chicago. The Sharks won 3-2 in a shootout.

Roundup

Sharks nip Blackhawks in SO

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — San Jose coach Todd McLellan gushed about the Sharks' defense and effort. He also praised goalie Alex Stalock.

What a difference a day makes. Logan Couture and Joe Pavelski scored in a shootout, and the Sharks beat the Blackhawks 3-2 on Sunday night for their first victory in Chicago in three years.

"This was the best defensive effort we've had in this building in a while," McLellan said.

Stalock made 33 saves through overtime as San Jose bounced back from a 4-3 loss at Colorado Saturday. Jason Demers scored in the first period, and Brett Burns had a tying goal in the third.

The Sharks allowed the first four goals in the loss to the Avalanche, and McLellan pulled Antti Niemi early in the second period in favor of Stalock. McLellan then talked about holding the goalies accountable in 2014, along with the rest of the team.

"It's hard to demand perfection, but you have to demand as close

as you can get to that," McLellan said. "The players tonight gave us that. It still was a tough task. To score only two and win a game against Chicago, you've done something pretty well."

Couture beat Corey Crawford with a shot into the right side of the net after Stalock stopped Chicago captain Jonathan Toews leading off the shootout. Patrick Sharp then shot wide before Pavelski scored to give the Sharks their first win at the United Center since Dec. 30, 2010.

Crawford made 40 saves in his first home start since he left Chicago's 6-2 victory over Florida on Dec. 8 because of a lower-body injury. He came back Thursday and stopped 31 shots in a 3-2 overtime loss at the New York Islanders.

Defensemen Niklas Hjalmarsson and Michal Rozsival scored in the third period for the Blackhawks (29-7-9), who have earned at least one point in their past 10 games. It was their fifth home shootout loss.

"We've lost a few in a row here and I think it could be a little bit

uncomfortable, or a lack of confidence, but we've got to work our way through it," coach Joel Quenneville said of the shootout trouble. "We've left a lot of points on the board."

"We could have put ourself in a better spot than we're at. That's been a sour spot recently."

Penguins 6, Jets 5: Evgeni Malkin scored twice in his return from injury as Pittsburgh beat visiting Winnipeg.

Hurricanes 2, Predators 1: Alexander Semin and Jeff Skinner both had a goal and an assist and Anton Khudobin made 31 saves to lift host Carolina over Nashville for its fourth straight win.

Ducks 4, Canucks 3 (OT): Corey Perry scored his NHL-leading eighth game-winning goal of the season with 1.3 seconds left on the clock in overtime, giving host Anaheim a come-from-behind victory over Vancouver.

Oilers 5, Lightning 3: Jordan Eberle scored two goals as Edmonton snapped a four-game losing streak by beating visiting Tampa Bay.

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COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Aztecs snap KU's nonconference streak

No. 21 San Diego St. tops Kansas for 11th straight win

By DAVE SKRETTA
The Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — It was so loud inside Allen Fieldhouse that San Diego State's players could barely hear what coach Steve Fisher was saying, yet they knew what the message would be as the timeout ended.

No matter the situation, it's always the same.

"He just tells you to think something positive, whether it's basketball, family, whatever. Think something positive," Xavier Thames said. "I think that really helps."

It sure seemed to settle down the Aztecs.

Thames scored 16 points, and calmly made four straight free throws in the closing seconds Sunday, helping No. 21 San Diego State knock off No. 16 Kansas 61-57, ending the Jayhawks' 68-game non-conference winning streak at their venerable on-campus arena.

Skylar Spencer added 13 points and Josh Davis had 10 for the Aztecs (12-1), who have won 11 straight since losing to No. 1 Arizona on Nov. 14. That streak is tied for the second-best in school history, trailing only the 20-0 start of the 2010-11 team.

"Our coach never gets rattled," San Diego State forward Winston Shepard said. "He's always even keeled, whether we're up 20 or it's a close game in here. After every timeout, he tell us to take a good thought out there."

Think happy thoughts? Why didn't those other 68 teams try that at the Phog?

Kansas (9-4) still had a chance to tie the game when Perry Ellis went to the free throw line with 11.9 seconds left. He made his first free throw but, after San Diego State called a timeout to ice him, Ellis missed the second and the Jayhawks were forced to foul.

Thames made both free throws to give San Diego State a three-point lead, and the Aztecs fouled rather than allow Kansas to attempt a tying three-pointer. Frank Mason missed the first and made the second, and Thames made two more free throws with 4.6 seconds left to seal the win.

Andrew Wiggins and Mason scored 14 points apiece for the Jayhawks, who had won 112 of their last 114 games at Allen Fieldhouse. Joel Embiid finished with 12 points and 12 rebounds.

The Jayhawks struggled against the long, lanky Aztecs right from the start, missing eight of their first nine shots and allowing San Diego State to dictate the tempo.

After a three-pointer by Naadir Tharpe gave Kansas a 9-8 lead, the Jayhawks had just one more field goal over the next 8-plus minutes. Thames and Davis had no such trouble for San Diego State, hitting a series of jumpers and contested layups as the Aztecs built a 29-23 halftime lead.

Kansas wound up shooting 20.7 percent (6-for-29) in the first half.

"I think everybody, we all missed shots we usually make," Wiggins said, "and that's going to happen from time to time with a young team."



CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

San Diego State's Winston Shepard celebrates in front of stunned Kansas players and fans after the Aztecs won 61-57 to end the No. 16 Jayhawks' 68-game non-conference winning streak at Allen Fieldhouse in Lawrence, Kan.

The Aztecs kept up the intensity in the second half, forcing the Jayhawks to misfire on eight of their first 10 shots with their in-your-face, man-to-man defense. The lead slowly grew to 44-33 when JJ O'Brien converted after two misses, once more silencing a packed house.

The Jayhawks finally started to build some momentum midway through the second half, closing within 58-56 on a basket

by Wiggins and 50-48 on Tharpe's scooping layup.

It seemed as if every time Kansas went on a run, though, the Aztecs had an answer.

"Every play we made, it seemed like they came down, they got something positive out of the next possession," Mason said. "Whether it was free throws or a made basket, we just couldn't get the stops we needed."

Top 25 roundup

Colorado rallies to hand No. 10 Oregon first loss

The Associated Press

BOULDER, Colo. — With Askia Booker and Spencer Dinwiddie attacking the basket, Colorado managed to beat high-scoring Oregon at its own game.

Booker scored a career-high 27 points, 11 in the last 4:40, and Dinwiddie scored 16 of his 23 in the second half as No. 20 Colorado rallied from a 10-point deficit to hand No. 10 Oregon its first loss of the season, 100-91 on Sunday.

"You've got to fight fire with fire," Colorado coach Tad Boyle said. "When they're trapping you and they're attacking you defensively, you've got to attack them."

Booker and Dinwiddie were the first 20-plus point scorers in the same game for Colorado since Cory Higgins (22) and Alec Burks (25) both surpassed that threshold against California on March 18, 2011.

"It's pretty simple," Dinwiddie said. "When 'Ski plays well, we play well. We kind of go as he goes. He played extremely well today and we got a good win against a top-ranked team."

Five-and-a-half minutes into the second half, Colorado found itself trailing by 10 points. From there, the Buffaloes got their transition game going, with Booker and Dinwiddie leading the charge down the court.

"We were attacking the basket,



ANDY MANIS/AP

Wisconsin's Traevon Jackson, left, and Frank Kaminsky go after a rebound against Iowa's Gabriel Olaseni, center, on Sunday. Wisconsin won 75-71 to tie the best start in school history at 15-0.

getting downhill, getting in the lane," Boyle said. "They play a matchup zone. They're so explosive offensively and they exert so much energy on the offensive end that sometimes defensively you can get them standing flatfooted and I thought Spence and 'Ski, our two guards, in the second half especially attacked the basket."

Xavier Johnson and Josh Scott had 15 points apiece for Colorado (13-2, 2-0 Pac-12), which is off to its best start since the 1968-69 team began the season 13-2. Scott had 12 rebounds for the Buffa-

loes, who remain unbeaten in 11 home games this season.

Mike Moser had 24 points to lead Oregon (13-1, 1-1), which was denied its first 14-0 start since 1937-38. Joseph Young and Damyean Dotson both added 16 points.

"We got the lead and we were so giddy about scoring baskets that we didn't guard," Oregon coach Dana Altman said. "We got the lead and held them to only five points in the first five minutes of the second half ... and then defensively, we broke down."

Leading the nation in scoring,

Oregon, one of seven unbeaten Division I teams entering the day, could not keep up with Colorado.

No. 4 Wisconsin 75, No. 22 Iowa 71: Ben Brust scored 19 points and the host Badgers remained unbeaten.

Wisconsin (15-0, 2-0 Big Ten) matched the best start in school history, tying the 1911-12 and 1913-14 teams.

The game was physical at times, drawing loud protests from both coaches. But Iowa coach Fran McCaffery boiled over after a foul was called on Gabriel Olaseni that sent Nigel Hayes to the line.

McCaffery was ejected with 12 minutes to play after two technical fouls were called. He continued to confront the officials as his assistants tried to restrain him.

Brust then hit all four free throws off the technical fouls, and Hayes converted one of two on the personal.

That turned a 41-39 Iowa lead into 44-41 Wisconsin advantage.

No. 8 Wichita St. 67, N. Iowa 53: Fred VanVleet had a season-high 22 points to lead the host Shockers to their 15th straight win.

Cleanthony Early had 18 points for Wichita State (15-0, 2-0 Missouri Valley), which established a school record for consecutive wins and extended the best start in school history. The previous re-

cord winning streak of 14 games came in 1953-54.

Deon Mitchell had 16 points for Northern Iowa (7-7, 1-1).

No. 11 Villanova 91, Providence 61: JayVaughn Pinkston scored 19 points and Dylan Ennis had 17 for the host Wildcats.

Pinkston dunked off the opening tip, and Villanova (13-1, 2-0 Big East) dominated from there, thrashing the Friars (10-5, 0-2), who beat them twice last season. The Wildcats opened on a 9-0 run, and hit 10 of their first 11 shots to build a 24-point lead.

Wake Forest 73, No. 19 North Carolina 67: Travis McKie scored 10 of his 16 points in the second half for the host Demon Deacons in the Atlantic Coast Conference opener for both teams.

Codi Miller-McIntyre added 12 points for Wake Forest (11-3, 1-0), who took control with a 15-2 run midway through the second half to build a double-digit lead.

The Tar Heels (10-4, 0-1) made a late push to cut the deficit to 64-61 with about 2 minutes left, but got no closer as the Demon Deacons held on for their third win against a ranked opponent under fourth-year coach Jeff Bzdelik.

The win also snapped a four-game losing streak in the long-running series, giving Wake Forest its first win against North Carolina since 2010.

OLYMPICS/COLLEGE FOOTBALL



OLYMPICTORCH2014.COM/AP

Olympic torch bearers Riyaz Ibragimov, left, and Lyubov Poryvayeva hold their torches in Sviyazhsk on the Volga River, Russia. The 40,389-mile Sochi torch relay, which started on Oct. 7, is the longest in Olympic history. The torch has traveled to the North Pole on a Russian nuclear-powered icebreaker and was flown into space. The Opening Ceremony for the Sochi Winter Olympics is set for Feb. 7.

What's good, bad in Sochi

Russia's first Winter Games among most contentious

BY STEPHEN WILSON
The Associated Press

LONDON — Tuesday marks the 1-month countdown to the start of the Winter Olympics in Sochi, a defining moment on the world stage for Russia and Vladimir Putin.

These games are among the most contentious in Olympic history, embroiled in controversy over terrorist threats, human rights, gay rights, cost overruns, corruption and environmental damage. But is it all doom and gloom for Putin's pet project?

Before the Olympic cauldron is lit on Feb. 7, it's time for a look at the good and the bad for Russia's first Winter Games.

The negatives

Terror threat: The two bombings in Volgograd which killed 34 people in suicide attacks on the rail station and a trolley bus have escalated the security alarm.

Sochi is on the edge of the Caucasus region, where insurgents are seeking to create an Islamic state. Chechen rebel leader Doku Umarov has urged his fighters to attack the Sochi Olympics, which he described as "satanic dances on the bones of our ancestors."

A massive security apparatus will be in place for the games, meaning painstaking metal-detector, X-ray and other checks for athletes, spectators and media. Ticketholders will need to obtain "spectator passes," providing passport and other information to authorities.

Gay rights: The Russian law banning gay "propaganda" has caused a furious backlash in the West and tarnished the country's international reputation heading into the Olympics.

While Russia has promised there will be no discrimination

at the games, critics continue to bash the law. The IOC has been assailed for not pushing Russia to repeal the legislation.

Putin's politics: Putin's prickly relations with the West have soured any "feel-good" factor about the Olympics. Tensions with the U.S. and President Barack Obama grew after Putin granted temporary asylum to NSA leaker Edward Snowden.

Putin's policies on Syria and Iran, and Russia's backsliding on democratic reforms have antagonized Western leaders. For the first time since 2000, the U.S. delegation to the Olympics will not include a president, vice president or first lady.

Weather worries: Sochi is a subtropical resort on the Black Sea. Temperatures on the coast, where the indoor ice events will be held, will be mild.

That's fine, but there is uncertainty over conditions in the mountains for the snow events. While there is already a good layer of snow in place, a spell of warm or wet weather could cause problems. As a precaution, organizers have stored up 450,000 cubic meters of snow. Also worth noting: flooding and avalanches are common in the region.

Record cost: \$51 billion. That's the overall price tag for the games, by far the most expensive in history, summer or winter, and more than three times the budget of the 2012 London Games.

The cost includes the long-term investment in roads, tunnels, railways and ski facilities. Everything has been built from scratch as Russia seeks to turn Sochi into a year-round tourist destination.

The costs have soared way above previous projections amid allegations of financial mismanagement, corruption and favors doled out to oligarchs and Putin's friends.

The positives

Yes, there are things to look forward to. Here's a sampling:

New sports: Twelve new events are on the sports program in Sochi, with women's ski jumping perhaps the biggest attraction.

Female jumpers are making their debut after being rejected for inclusion in Vancouver four years ago. In a nod to the young X Games generation, the IOC has also added ski halfpipe and ski and snowboard slopestyle events.

Hockey fever: The NHL players are back. Hockey is the sport Russia really cares about and the host nation will be out to make amends after the disaster in Vancouver, losing to Canada in the quarterfinals. It was symbolic of Russia's worst showing at a Winter Games, winning 15 medals and finishing 11th in the table.

Ski stars: Alpine skiing features the anticipated returns of American stars Lindsey Vonn and Bode Miller from knee injuries, though Vonn's status remains uncertain. High-profile medal contenders include 18-year-old American Mikaela Shiffrin.

The venues: They're brand new, they're ready and they'll look great on TV. Gleaming arenas are in place for hockey, curling, speedskating and figure skating.

The stakes: National pride and Putin's personal prestige are on the line. There's simply too much at play for Russia not to make the games a success. Besides, once the competition begins, the athletes take center stage and the host nation begins winning medals, the atmosphere takes off.

And finally: Hey, the mascots are kind of cute.

Much-maligned BCS getting a fitting burial

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. — There will be a funeral amid the celebration after the BCS championship game on Monday night.

No. 1 Florida State and No. 2 Auburn will be the last team to hoist the \$30,000 Waterford crystal football that goes to college football's champion and has become emblematic of the Bowl Championship Series. Then the BCS will be buried in the Rose Bowl after 16 years of revolutionizing the sport — and frustrating so many of its fans and participants.

"We wouldn't have a playoff if we didn't have the BCS," BCS executive director Bill Hancock said Saturday during media day for the championship game.

In the end, the BCS turned out to be not a destination for college football's postseason but part of its evolution.

Even one of its harshest critics concedes it did some good.

"It's better than what we had, but it should have lasted four years not 16," said Yahoo! Sports writer Dan Wetzel, who wrote the book "Death to the BCS."

The idea for the BCS came from former Southeastern Conference Commissioner Roy Kramer. The story goes that he jotted it down on a napkin. The goal was to take a bowl system that rarely matched the top two teams after the season and give it a structure that would produce 1 vs. 2 every season.

Before the BCS, there were 11 bowl games in college football history that matched the Nos. 1 and 2 teams in The Associated Press college football poll.

The BCS produced three such matchups in the first six seasons, and there was even a split championship in 2003, when Southern California finished No. 1 in the AP poll but didn't reach the BCS title game. LSU won that. Clearly that wasn't what the conference commissioners who ran the system had in mind. So they tinkered, often.

"I think some of the criticism came because of the tweaks early on that were made," Hancock said.

The LSU/USC controversy was followed a season later when the BCS' simple, fatal flaw was exposed. What happens when

there are three worthy teams for a game built for two? Undeclared Auburn was the odd team out among perfect USC and Oklahoma. At that point many fans were in revolt and the BCS became an easy target for its detractors.

"It became cool to criticize it — which is unfortunate," Hancock said.

Maybe so, but it's not as if it was all unfair. And it was hard to buy some of the reasons commissioners such as Jim Delany of the Big Ten and Mike Slive of the Southeastern Conference were pushing to explain why a playoff just wasn't possible.

They cited the academic calendar, the charity work the bowls did, the soundness of the formula used to pick the teams, the negative ramifications a playoff would have on the regular season and scheduling, Wetzel said.

"They used so many excuses that were demonstrably untrue," he said. "It drove fans crazy because fans were not as dumb as the BCS wanted them to be."

Slive, motivated by what happened to Auburn, proposed a "plus-one" in 2008, which would have changed the BCS to a four-team playoff. It was shot down, but it was the beginning of the end.

More and more the questioning of the BCS was coming from people who were ostensibly a part of the system.

"That's when I knew the thing was doomed," Wetzel said.

With momentum building for change, the last crack that made the BCS crumble came after the 2012 season, when the national championship game matched two SEC teams: Alabama vs. LSU in New Orleans.

The commissioners met a day after the game and started constructing a four-team playoff.

Hancock said the leap from the old bowl system to the BCS was far greater and more difficult than the move from BCS to playoff.

"The culture was already there," he said.

And now that the BCS is about to be laid to rest, as with any funeral, the last word should be something nice about the departed.

"Although it was heavily criticized and misunderstood," said Hancock, "the BCS did everything it was intended to do and then some."



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Auburn coach Gus Malzahn, left, and Florida State coach Jimbo Fisher pose with The Coaches' Trophy that will be awarded to the winner of the BCS National Championship game on Monday.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Class-conscious Seminoles enjoy their friendly rivalry

By KAREEM COPELAND
The Associated Press

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. — A Heisman-winning redshirt freshman has dominated the headlines but Florida State wouldn't be playing for a national championship without major contributions from those who arrived before him.

Those would be coach Jimbo Fisher's first recruiting classes — the groups that laid the foundation for the rebirth of Florida State football. Fisher called the 2013 roster one of the most unselfish teams he's ever been part of, but there's still room for a friendly rivalry among teammates.

"Listen, listen. The junior class wants to say what they did — don't get me wrong, they brought a lot to this program," senior linebacker Telvin Smith said. "But everybody knows when the class of 2010 stepped on campus, Florida State was changed forever."

"Y'all remember the story of the three little pigs? One built his house of sticks. One built his house of straw and one built his house of bricks. We laid the house of bricks."

The house began with Jeff Luc as the cornerstone. He was widely considered the No. 1 middle linebacker in the nation in 2010 and his commitment opened the eyes of members of both the 2010 and 2011 recruiting classes. He eventually transferred to Cincinnati, but he had an effect on the program from a recruiting standpoint.

Florida State's 2010 class was considered a top 10 class by most major recruiting services. The Seminoles have seven starters from that class — Smith, Terrence Brooks, Christian Jones, Kenny Shaw, Chad Abram, ACC offensive lineman of the year Cameron Erving and All-America defensive back Lamarucus Joyner. Bjoern Werner, who was selected No. 24 overall in the 2013 NFL Draft, was also a member of that class.

"As far as re-establishing the foundation, setting the tone, as far as leadership? The 2010 class has played a big part in that," Joyner said. "The key thing was let's bring it back. We brought it



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Florida State senior LB Telvin Smith answers a question during media day for the BCS championship game. Smith insists the credit for the Seminoles' rejuvenation should go to his 2010 class.

back. We're here. National championship. We didn't do it alone, we did it together.

"We changed the way people thought around here. That was our goal as players, to come in here, you know, we watched Deion Sanders, Terrell Buckley, Derrick Brooks, Peter Warrick. Those guys had a vision. Those guys had a belief. I mean those guys (brought) this program to what it was. Why couldn't we do the same thing? That's the way we felt. That's the way we believed."

Joyner grinned and addressed those juniors, "We've got to put them in their place every once in a while."

That 2011 class, however, was widely considered the No. 1 recruiting class in the country and one of the best ever at Florida State.

There will be eight full-time starters from that class Monday — Josue Matias, Kelvin Benjamin, Nick O'Leary, Rashad Greene, Bobby Hart, Timmy Jernigan, Devonta Freeman and Terrance Smith.

Running back Karlos Williams was thought of by most services

as a top-2 safety in 2011 and running back James Wilder was a top-5 athlete. Nile Lawrence-Stample starts when the Seminoles go with two defensive tackles and Tyler Hunter started at safety before being lost for the season with a neck injury. Cornelius Carradine, who was the No. 40 overall pick in the 2013 NFL Draft, was also a member of that class.

"We always argue about that," Freeman said. "Christian Jones (says), 'We started this. We've got the better class. ... But it's a friendly argument."

"Then we go out and practice hard. It's just a competition out there in practice and stuff."

Wilder put it simply, "They laid down the bricks for us. But we got this thing rolling."

Regardless, the combination of the two classes has the Seminoles a game away from the third national championship in school history. And the 2012 class might have something to say with a Heisman winner in Jameis Winston, Lou Groza award winner Roberto Aguayo and starters in Ronald Darby, P.J. Williams, Mario Edwards and Eddie Goldman.

"What really made me start thinking Florida State was the year that Jeff Luc committed and Bobby Bowden stepped down," Jernigan said. "Jeff Luc kind of set it off for everybody. He was one of the first to commit. ... Then the next year I saw Wilder committed. That's what really triggered me and kind of made me want to be part of something special."

"It's fun to argue with those guys unless you're arguing with Telvin or Kenny. You can't win too many arguments with those two."



CHRIS CARLSON/AP

Coach Gus Malzahn turned around an Auburn program that was 3-9 last year, two years after winning a national title. Those around the Tigers' program are looking to maintain their winning ways.

Auburn hoping for sustained success

By JOHN ZENOR
The Associated Press

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. — The Auburn Tigers are hoping this time will be different.

Auburn's football program has reached the heights of success with more regularity than most over the past 20 years, only to plunge back to mediocrity and beyond before rising again.

"It's been an emotional roller coaster," former Auburn and NFL linebacker Takeo Spikes said.

This Auburn team has produced the most dramatic rebound of them all. The second-ranked Tigers soared from a 3-9 debacle a year ago to Monday night's BCS championship game against Florida State at the Rose Bowl.

The trick for first-year coach Gus Malzahn and athletic director Jay Jacobs will be sustaining a high level of success consistently.

Spikes is optimistic that there won't be a repeat of what happened in the aftermath of the Cam Newton-led national championship season in 2010. The Tigers won four Southeastern Conference games over the next two seasons, including a goose egg in 2012.

"I think Jay Jacobs is aware and is going to do a better job as far as maintenance of it," Spikes said. "To have the team win a national championship the way they did, and have Newton win the Heisman, and come back and pretty much suck the next two years, is why it's so hard for not only alumni but the fans to swallow."

The Tigers have had four seasons since 1993 with no more than one loss, under four different coaches. They've matched that with four losing seasons.

Few programs have been so up and down during that span.

Four times since 1990, Auburn has improved by five or more wins from one season to the next. That matches the most by any Football Bowl Subdivision program, putting Auburn in the company of Hawaii, Rice, Tulane and Tulsa.

Auburn is far from the only program that has struggled to maintain a high level of success year in and year out.

It's the goal, though.

"That's exactly what we're striving for," said Jacobs, a former Auburn offensive lineman, who has worked in the athletic department for more than two decades. "I think this year we've built a foundation and we said back in December when we hired Gus, we're not sure how many wins we'll get but Auburn football's going to be fun. It's certainly been fun."

"It's been a season for the ages."

Jacobs feels Malzahn, an experienced group of assistant coaches and their successes in recruiting make for a bright future.

The Tigers are poised to land their fifth consecutive recruiting class rated among the nation's top 13 in the 247Sports composite rankings. That's a nice start.

The search for stability has also included a big raise for Malzahn, who agreed to a new six-year deal worth \$3.85 million annually.

Jacobs is looking beyond this season and hoping Auburn can keep it going.

"When you just look around the league, you see teams that have peaked and valleyed and then they've peaked again," he said. "It's a challenging thing, but I know that with Gus's leadership and everything that we're doing at Auburn in the athletics department, we're building a program for stability and for the future."



'As far as re-establishing the foundation, setting the tone, as far as leadership? The 2010 class has played a big part in that.'

Lamarucus Joyner
Florida State DB

'To have the team win a national championship the way they did ... and come back and pretty much suck the next two years, is why it's so hard for not only alumni but the fans to swallow.'

Takeo Spikes
Former Auburn and NFL linebacker

NFL

Familiar foes prep for divisional showdowns

Colts at Patriots only non-regular season rematch in divisional round

By **BARRY WILNER**
The Associated Press

The road was kind in the wild-card round. The next challenge might be more daunting for the Saints, 49ers and Chargers.

Not to mention the Colts, the only team to win at home this weekend.

Not that any of the first-round playoff winners are shying away from the next test. Rather, their attitude is "Bring it on."

"They got us the first time," 49ers All-Pro linebacker NaVorro Bowman said of the Carolina Panthers, who won at San Francisco two months ago. "What's on our minds is to get them now. It's the playoffs, win or go home."

Going ahead were the 49ers after a 23-20 victory at frigid Green Bay; New Orleans, which finally got a postseason win away from the Big Easy by beating Philadelphia 26-24; San Diego, a 27-10 winner at Cincinnati, which had not lost at home all season; and Indianapolis, a 45-44 victor against Kansas City thanks to a stunning comeback from a 28-point deficit.

Next Saturday, it's New Orleans (12-5) at Seattle (13-3) on Saturday, followed by Indianapolis (12-5) at New England (12-4). Sunday's matchups are San Francisco (13-4) at Carolina (12-4), then San Diego (10-7) at Denver (13-3).

All but Colts-Patriots are rematches of a regular-season meeting. In addition to the Panthers' 10-9 win on Nov. 10 at Candlestick Park, the Seahawks routed the Saints 34-7 in Seattle and the Chargers won 27-20 at Denver last month.

"We're loose, we're confident, we're peaking at the right time," said safety Eric Weddle, who spearheaded a stingy Chargers defense against the Bengals. "We are a team to be dealt with."

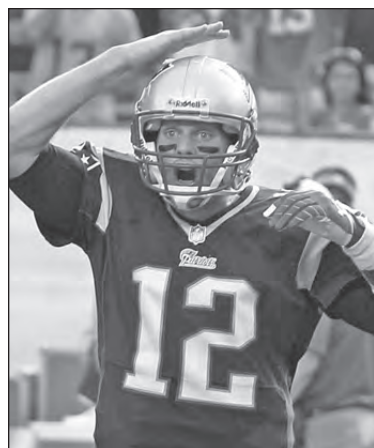
What's ahead in the playoffs:

Saints at Seahawks: New Orleans played its worst game of the season on Dec. 2 at Seattle, which seemed invincible at home back then. But the Seahawks showed some vulnerability at noisy CenturyLink Field by losing their next home game to Arizona.

That should encourage the Saints, but only if they can replicate the pressure the Cardinals' defense put on quarterback Russell Wilson. The Saints shut down the league's top rushing team in Philadelphia, and Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch has not been very dynamic the past six weeks.

But there's also the theory that the Seahawks were helped by sustaining their first home loss with second-year QB Wilson at the helm, and they won't be slipping up again.

"When you face an opponent previously in the season, you have a better idea of what you're going against," New Orleans defensive tackle Brodrick Bunkley said. "It



CHARLES TRAINOR JR., MIAMI HERALD/MCT

Patriots quarterback Tom Brady will lead New England against Andrew Luck's Indianapolis Colts on Saturday at Gillette Stadium.



JOSE CARLOS FAJARDO, BAY AREA NEWS GROUP/MCT

Ahmad Brooks of the San Francisco 49ers sacks Carolina quarterback Cam Newton during the first quarter at Candlestick Park in San Francisco on Sunday, Nov. 10, 2013. The Panthers won that game 10-9, and will look to do it again when they host San Francisco in Charlotte, N.C., on Sunday.

helps you prepare for it a little bit better."

Colts at Patriots: Here's a juicy one: Andrew Luck, the new comeback king among quarterbacks, against three-time Super Bowl winner Tom Brady.

"There's no question he's a complete football player and one of the top quarterbacks in this league already," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said Sunday. He meant Luck.

For that matchup to matter, though, the Colts must avoid the slow starts that plagued them this season. Does anyone believe they can fall behind by four touchdowns or so against the Patriots and then win?

New England's once sieve-like defense has improved recently, and witnessing what the Chiefs did to Indy's defense even without Jamaal Charles should make Colts fans shudder.

49ers at Panthers: San Francisco's versatility and experience showed at Green Bay. Teams that win in the worst of conditions while not playing close to their best are particularly dangerous.

The Niners won't need to worry about wind chills at Carolina. They will need to find a way to move the ball against a Panthers defense that shut them down two months ago.

This has the look of a low-scoring contest, but with San Francisco's Colin Kaepernick and Carolina's Cam Newton bringing so much creativity and energy at quarterback, the scoreboard might get lit up.

"Colin Kaepernick, I think we can all agree, is a clutch performer," coach Jim Harbaugh said.

Chargers at Broncos: These two original AFL franchises have met 108 times, but never in the

postseason.

Denver won at San Diego in November by eight points, then lost at home a month later to the Chargers by seven. San Diego has won five in a row, barely sneaking into the playoffs, but then handling the Bengals relatively easily Sunday.

For the Chargers to stay close to the Broncos' record-setting offense led by Peyton Manning, they will need their own quarterback, Philip Rivers, to make lots of big plays. Plus, Denver is not going to forget how it posted the AFC's best record a year ago, then flopped against Baltimore in its first postseason chance.

"We will be confident," said Rivers, who was 12 of 16 for 128 yards with a touchdown and no interceptions on a rainy, 40-degree afternoon in Cincinnati. "We've got to be careful we're not overconfident, which we won't be."

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NFL PLAYOFFS: AFC WILD CARD



Cincinnati Bengals running back Giovani Bernard fumbles as he is hit by San Diego Chargers linebacker Donald Butler in the first half of Sunday's AFC wild-card game in Cincinnati. It was one of four turnovers the Chargers' defense forced as San Diego won 27-10.

Chargers ride 'D' to top Bengals

Cincinnati's playoff woes continue with four turnovers

BY JOE KAY
The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Dump it off to the running back, hand it off, let the field goal kicker take it from there.

Philip Rivers didn't have to do a whole lot to get a playoff win. Not with the way San Diego's defense was dominating.

And not with the way Andy Dalton was coming apart in the playoffs again.

The Chargers took advantage of Dalton's three turnovers in the second half on Sunday, pulling away to a 27-10 victory that extended San Diego's late-season surge and pushed the Bengals' playoff misery to record levels.

With Rivers making accurate throws in the chilling rain, the Chargers (10-7) won their fifth in a row, beating the last team that had knocked them off. They'll play next Sunday in Denver, which has the AFC's top seed.

The Chargers lost at home to the Broncos 28-20 on Nov. 10, then went to Denver and got a rejuvenating 27-20 victory on Dec. 12 that gave them momentum.

"We will be confident," said Rivers, who was 12-for-16 for 128 yards with a touchdown and no interceptions on a rainy, 40-degree afternoon. "We've got to be careful we're not overconfident, which we won't be. Cincinnati came to our place and won five weeks ago."

The Bengals (11-6) won in San Diego 17-10 on Dec. 1, starting

their final push toward the AFC North title. They took advantage of three turnovers in that one.

They turned it over four times on Sunday, with Dalton's fumble and two interceptions in the second half leading to one of the most stunning losses in franchise history. The Bengals had been 8-0 at home and brought the NFL's No. 3 defense — their highest-ever playoff ranking — into the game.

With everything in their favor, they unraveled in the second half, getting outscored 20-0.

The Bengals now have the sixth-longest streak of playoff futility in NFL history, stretching all the way back to the 1990 season. They've lost their playoff opener three straight years, matching a league record, according to STATS LLC.

"Whatever you do during the regular season doesn't matter once you get to the playoffs," said Dalton, who is 0-3 in the playoffs. "It's disappointing. All the good stuff we did this year, then to come out and not win this game kind of hurts."

Dalton has a trilogy of bad playoff games. He fumbled and threw two interceptions in the second half. Dalton finished 29-for-51 for 334 yards with a below-average passer rating of 67.

The Chargers pressured him in the second half and took advantage of his mistakes. And they didn't turn the ball over in a conservative offense that sometimes grated on Rivers, but it worked.

"The way our defense was play-

Did you know

Boomer Esiason led the Bengals to their last playoff win 23 years ago, a 41-14 wild-card victory over the Houston Oilers on Jan. 6, 1991.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

ing, as long as we didn't have a disaster and we made plays when they were there, we were going to win this game," Rivers said.

Combined with the Saints' victory over the Eagles on Saturday, the two No. 6 playoff seeds won for the first time since 2010, when the Packers won the Super Bowl.

And the Chargers are thinking: Why not us?

"We're loose, we're confident, we're peaking at the right time," safety Eric Weddle said. "We are a team to be dealt with. We're a confident bunch, especially in the second half, in the fourth quarter. We feel we're ready for those situations. The pressure is not going to get to us."

This one was a reversal from the last time they met. The Ben-

gals forced three turnovers for their win in San Diego.

The Bengals got the rematch at home, where they had scored 49, 41, 41, 42 and 34 points in their last five regular season games. Their 10 points on Sunday were a season low.

Dalton went 17-for-34 for 170 yards with two interceptions, a fumble and three sacks in the second half. In first-round playoff losses each of the past three seasons, Dalton has thrown one TD pass and six interceptions.

"We kept Andy on his heels and got him off his spot," Weddle said. "We hit him a bunch and forced big turnovers."

He wasn't the only one with a big gaffe. Rookie running back Giovani Bernard fumbled at the San Diego 3-yard line after a catch in the first half.

Rivers completed a team-record and NFL-best 69.5 percent of his passes this season for 4,478 yards. He was only 5-for-6 in the first half for 48 yards with San Diego frequently backed inside its 20-yard line to start drives.

He completed all of his six passes during a 10-play, 80-yard drive in the third quarter that put the Chargers ahead to stay, with his 4-yard pass to Ladarius Green giving San Diego a 14-10 lead.

Dalton then made the mistakes that turned the game, allowing the Chargers to pull ahead. Ronnie Brown finished it off with a 58-yard touchdown run, the longest TD run against the Bengals in their playoff history.

Scoreboard

Playoff glance

Wild-card Playoffs

Saturday, Jan. 4

Indianapolis 45, Kansas City 44

New Orleans 26, Philadelphia 24

Sunday, Jan. 5

San Diego 27, Cincinnati 10

San Francisco 23, Green Bay 20

Divisional Playoffs

Saturday, Jan. 11

New Orleans at Seattle

Indianapolis at New England

Sunday, Jan. 12

San Francisco at Carolina

San Diego at Denver

Conference Championships

Sunday, Jan. 19

AFC

NFC

Super Bowl

Sunday, Feb. 2

At East Rutherford, N.J.

AFC champion vs. NFC champion

Sunday

49ers 23, Packers 20

San Francisco 6 7 0 10-23

Green Bay 0 10 0 10-20

First Quarter

SF—FG Dawson 22, 9:00.

SF—FG Dawson 25, 2:17.

Second Quarter

GB—Nelson 5 pass from Rodgers (Crosby kick), 5:50.

SF—Gore 10 run (Dawson kick), 2:48.

GB—FG Crosby 34, :00.

Fourth Quarter

GB—Kuhn 1 run (Crosby kick), 12:06.

SF—V.Davis 28 pass from Kaepernick (Dawson kick), 10:31.

GB—FG Crosby 24, 5:06.

SF—FG Dawson 33, :00.

A—77,525.

First downs	22	SF	18	GB
Total Net Yards	381		281	
Rushes-yards	30-167		31-124	
Passing	214		157	
Punt Returns	2-20		0-0	
Kickoff Returns	3-78		5-105	
Interceptions Ret.	0-0		1-17	
Comp-Att-Int	16-30-1		17-26-0	
Sacked-Yards Lost	3-13		4-20	
Punts	3-36.7		5-39.4	
Fumbles-Lost	1-0		2-0	
Penalties-Yards	2-10		3-20	
Time of Possession	29:06		30:54	

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing—San Francisco, Kaepernick 7-98, Gore 20-66, Hunter 2-4, Patton 1- (minus 1). Green Bay, Lacy 21-81, Starks 5-29, Rodgers 2-11, Kuhn 2-2, Cobb 1-1.

Passing—San Francisco, Kaepernick 16-30-1-27. Green Bay, Rodgers 17-26-0-177.

Receiving—San Francisco, Crabtree 8-125, Boldin 3-38, V.Davis 2-37, Gore 1-11, Dixon 1-10, Celek 1-6. Green Bay, Nelson 7-62, Cobb 2-51, J.Jones 2-20, Kuhn 2-16, Lacy 2-7, Starks 1-13, Quarless 1-8.

Missed field goals—None.

Chargers 27, Bengals 10

San Diego 7 0 10 10-27

Cincinnati 0 10 0 0-10

First Quarter

SD—Woodhead 5 run (Novak kick), :48.

Second Quarter

Cin—Gresham 4 pass from Dalton (Nugent kick), 5:59.

Cin—FG Nugent 46, :00.

Third Quarter

SD—Green 4 pass from Rivers (Novak kick), 6:46.

SD—FG Novak 25, 2:00.

Fourth Quarter

SD—FG Novak 23, 14:16.

SD—R.Brown 58 run (Novak kick), 2:17.

A—62,277.

First downs	16	SD	27	Cin
Total Net Yards	318		439	
Rushes-yards	40-196		25-113	
Passing	122		326	
Punt Returns	0-0		3-6	
Kickoff Returns	1-23		6-151	
Interceptions Ret.	2-33		0-0	
Comp-Att-Int	12-16-0		29-51-2	
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-6		3-8	
Punts	6-43.2		3-39.3	
Fumbles-Lost	0-0		3-2	
Penalties-Yards	5-28		4-38	
Time of Possession	29:28		30:32	

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing—San Diego, R.Brown 8-77, Woodhead 15-54, Mathews 13-52, Royal 1-9, Rivers 2-4, McClain 1-0. Cincinnati, Bernard 12-45, Green-Ellis 8-42, Dalton 5-26.

Passing—San Diego, Rivers 12-16-0-128. Cincinnati, Dalton 29-51-2-334.

Receiving—San Diego, Green 3-34, Allen 2-21, Woodhead 2-14, Mathews 2-12, Royal 1-33, R.Brown 1-9, Gates 1-5. Cincinnati, M.Jones 8-130, Bernard 7-73, Gresham 7-64, Green 3-34, Hawkins 3-20, Sanu 1-13.

Missed field goals—None.

Longest playoff droughts

Longest streaks without a playoff win in NFL history, according to STATS.

50 years, Chicago/St. Louis/Phoenix/Arizona Cardinals (1948-97)

37 years, Pittsburgh Pirates/Steelers (1933-71)

33 years, New Orleans Saints (1967-99)

33 years, Detroit Lions (1958-90)

28 years, Washington Redskins (1944-71)

23 years, Baltimore/Indianapolis Colts (1972-94)

23 years, Cincinnati Bengals (1991-2013)

NFL PLAYOFFS: NFC WILD-CARD

Last-second loss leaves Packers cold

49ers' Kaepernick shows his cool in frigid Green Bay to win NFC wild-card game

By GENARO C. ARMAS
The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Under pressure in subzero weather, Colin Kaepernick kept his cool.

Facing a blitz on third-and-8, the elusive San Francisco 49ers quarterback scrambled 11 yards out of trouble to set up Phil Dawson's 33-yard field goal as time expired for a 23-20 win Sunday over the Green Bay Packers in an NFC wild-card game.

Doesn't matter where or when — the 49ers keep figuring out how to beat Green Bay.

"Didn't think we were going to pull it out, did you?" coach Jim Harbaugh said.

When it's Kaepernick and the 49ers facing the Packers, the game is never over. Even in the meat locker that was Lambeau Field, where the temperature at kickoff was 5 degrees, with a wind chill of minus-10.

No sweat for Kaepernick. He went sleeveless, and didn't wear gloves.

"I've played in cold-weather games before," he said. "I feel like it's more mental than anything."

San Francisco plays at Carolina next Sunday in the divisional round.

Kaepernick threw for 227 yards, including a 28-yard TD pass to Vernon Davis, and ran for 98, while Michael Crabtree had eight catches for 125 yards for San Francisco.

In a back-and-forth fourth quarter, the 49ers (13-4) threw the final punch. Kaepernick escaped a blitz to get to the 27 with 1:13 left.

"Just trying to figure out a way to get that first down," Kaepernick said. "Had a play called, we didn't get the look that we wanted. It worked out for us."

Dawson nailed the winning kick five plays later — but only after nearly being blocked by edge rusher Davon House. He was whistled for being offside on the play, but the 49ers declined the penalty with the win in hand.

Mason Crosby's 24-yard field goal tied it at 20 for the Packers (8-8-1) with 5:06 left before the 49ers' final drive.

Until then, Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers did his best to turn into "Captain Comeback" again. After a slow first quarter, Rodgers finished 17-for-26 for 177 yards and touchdown.

"Very disappointing, personally," Rodgers said. "It's frustrating not to play your best game in tough conditions. Defense holds them to 23 points. We should win that game."

Kaepernick connected with a spinning Davis down the seam for a score with 10:39 left. The TD quickly answered John Kuhn's 1-yard run that briefly gave the Packers a four-point lead.

That touchdown was set up after Rodgers, in the clutches of a 49ers defender, somehow man-



JEFFREY PHELPS/AP

San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick (7) sprints away from Green Bay Packers cornerback Davon House (31) in the first half of their NFC wild-card playoff game on Sunday at Lambeau Field in Green Bay, Wis. The 49ers won 23-20 on a field goal as time expired.



RICK WOOD, MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL/AP

San Francisco 49ers kicker Phil Dawson (9) kicks the game-winning field goal through the arms of Green Bay Packers cornerback Davon House (31) as time expires to beat the Green Bay Packers 23-20 on Sunday in their NFC wild-card playoff game in frigid Green Bay.

aged to escape a sack on fourth-and-2 and found Randall Cobb for a 26-yard gain to the Niners 4.

Eddie Lacy ran for 81 yards on 21 carries for the Packers, while Frank Gore had 66 yards and a

Did you know

This is the second straight year the Green Bay Packers have started and ended the season with a loss to the San Francisco 49ers.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

touchdown on 20 carries for the 49ers.

But it was Kaepernick who was the difference-maker once again in San Francisco's fourth straight win over Green Bay. He finished 16 of 30 with the touchdown and an interception.

For the second year in a row, the Packers' season has started and ended with losses to the 49ers. The latest edition of what's turned into a chippy and heated rivalry took place on the worn, frozen turf of Lambeau Field.

An injury-filled season for the

Packers came to an end.

A depleted Packers defense — already playing without linebacker Clay Matthews — lost two more starters Sunday in cornerback Sam Shields and linebacker Mike Neal — but still managed to hold its own against the Niners.

"I'm just very proud of this team as far as their ability to continue to overcome adversity," coach Mike McCarthy said. "It hit us at every turn, it hit us again today and these guys just keep fighting and fighting."

In a memorable playoff debut last January, Kaepernick ran for a quarterback playoff-record 181 yards and a pair of touchdowns. In the season opener in September, the strong-armed quarterback threw for a career-best 412 yards and three scores.

This time, he did his damage on the ground and through the air.

Kaepernick tore through the Green Bay defense for a 42-yard run, getting a break at one point after House whiffed on a tackle, to set up Gore's 10-yard touchdown run that helped give the 49ers a 13-10 halftime lead.

"It was unbelievable, the way he was getting the edge. I mean, just clutch," Harbaugh said. "Colin Kaepernick, I think we can all agree, is a clutch performer."

SPORTS



Positive thoughts

Aztecs keep cool, end Kansas' 68-game nonconference home win streak | **Page 26**

NFL

TRIO OF REGULAR-SEASON REMATCHES IN DIVISIONAL ROUND

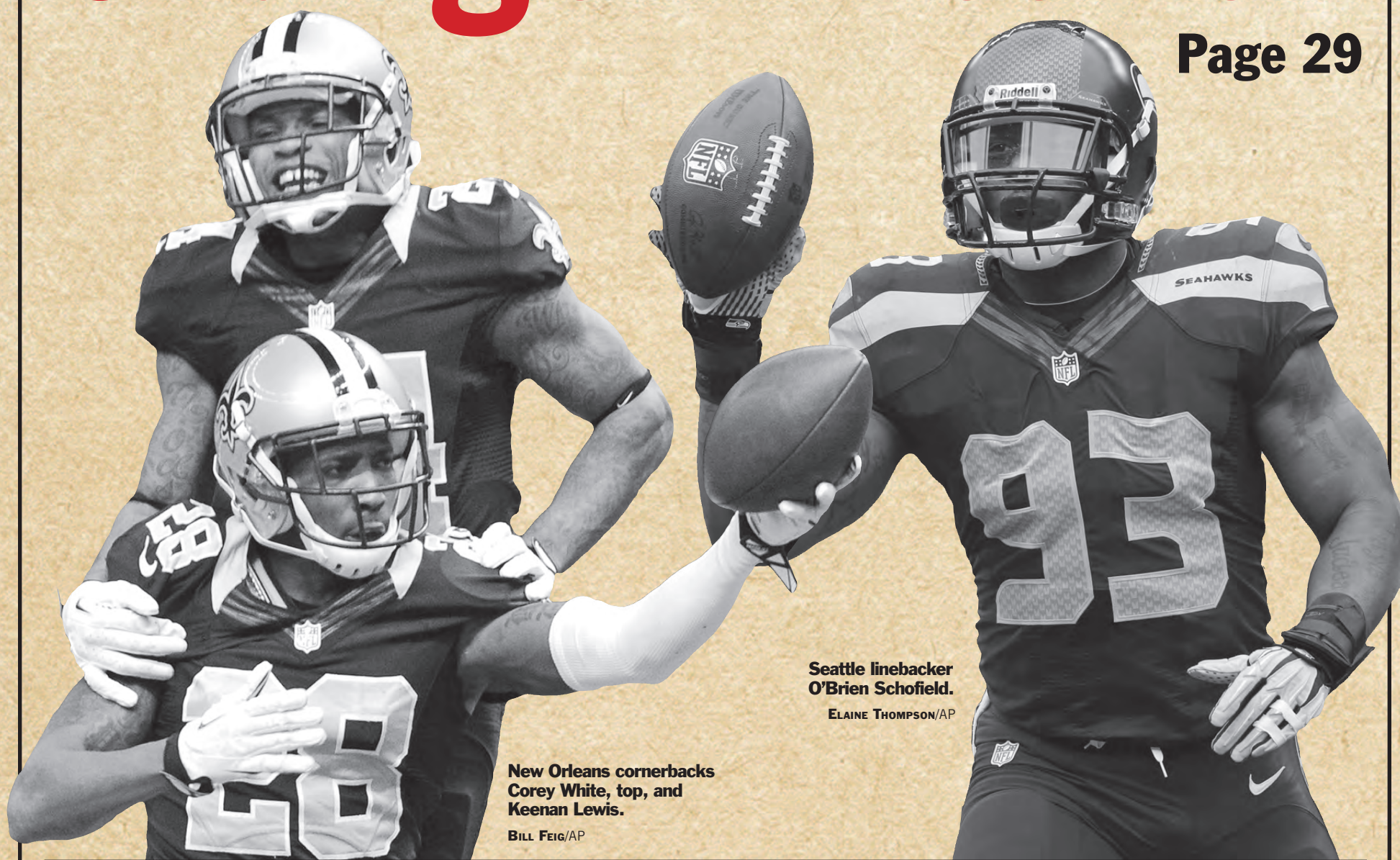
Saints

-vs-

Seahawks

Grudge matches

Page 29



Seattle linebacker
O'Brien Schofield.

ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

New Orleans cornerbacks
Corey White, top, and
Keenan Lewis.

BILL FEIG/AP



Broncos
-vs-
Chargers



49ers
-vs-
Panthers



2010 recruiting class set tone for Seminoles | **Page 28**

